

# QUILL



# OIL NEWSLETTER

PREPARED BY THE OIL INDUSTRY INFORMATION COMMITTEE

NUMBER

26

OF A SERIES

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

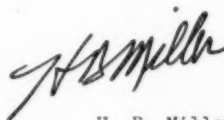
Most of the country's editors and publishers know about the Oil Industry Information Committee - what it is and how it operates. Occasionally, however, our letters indicate there are some editors who aren't too sure, and would like to know more about the OIIC. Since this is the beginning of a new year, and the Oil Industry Information Committee is going to be more active in 1952 than ever before, we thought that perhaps a rundown on the OIIC and the reasons for its creation would be helpful to all members of the Fourth Estate.

The OIIC was established in 1947 by the American Petroleum Institute, a non-profit national trade association including all segments of the industry. The industry wanted to help maintain the system of competitive enterprise which has made this country great. As a first step in forming the OIIC, a public opinion survey on the oil industry was made. It showed that far too many people were uninformed about the industry. This lack of understanding made them extremely susceptible to the claims and statements of false prophets, economic planners, idealists, theorists and just plain dreamers. Oil men agreed that the vacuum should be filled with accurate information - for an informed public will ward off regimentation, controls and other threats to the principles of our forefathers.

To this purpose, the Oil Industry Information Committee has been dedicated. By word of mouth, by speeches, radio, television and motion pictures; by booklets, pamphlets and leaflets; by every media and method possible, volunteer oilmen (your friends and neighbors in every Hometown, U.S.A.) are explaining the benefits of competitive enterprise; of how the intense competition between privately-managed companies works for the benefit of the public; how this same competition produces more and better products at reasonable prices; how competitive research keeps every company on its toes and how the ultimate benefit is reflected back to the American consumer.

In your area, there is an OIIC District Office. There are 12 all told, located in Atlanta, Philadelphia, New York, Boston, Cincinnati, Chicago, Minneapolis, New Orleans, Kansas City, Tulsa and Dallas. On the west coast, the Western Oil & Gas Association in Los Angeles sponsors this program. The District Representatives, and your local OIIC Committee, will be more than glad to help you obtain facts about oil. Write, wire or telephone them at any time.

We have a booklet entitled "What is the OIIC?" If you'd like to have a copy of this, or any other information about the program or the oil industry, don't hesitate to write to me.



H. B. Miller, Executive Director  
Oil Industry Information Committee  
American Petroleum Institute  
50 West 50th Street, New York 20, N. Y.

THE QUILL for January, 1952

# Bylines in This Issue

**T**HE First Amendment to the Constitution guarantees American newspapers the right to print the news about their government if they can first get it. But no federal law forces an executive official to tell what his department is doing. With rare exceptions, such information is simply a courtesy to the press.

Alexander F. (Casey) Jones, president of the American Society of Newspaper Editors, would prefer to operate by law rather than by "grace." He suggests, in "Urges Press to Seek Access to Federal Records as a Legal Right, Not a Favor" (page 7), that the press campaign for such an act of Congress.

"Casey" Jones, now executive editor of the Syracuse *Herald-Journal*, was known to hundreds of American newspapermen before he became president of the ASNE. The last year has made him known far beyond his own profession for he has been a tireless speaker and writer on behalf of freer access to public information.

This article is an example. It was adapted from a notable talk he gave at the recent Detroit convention of Sigma Delta Chi, professional journalistic fraternity. In recent months, he has literally made speeches from San Francisco to Ankara, Turkey.

He attended the University of Wisconsin and first reported for the *Wisconsin State Journal* in Madison. He later worked for the *United Press* and was on the staffs of the *Minneapolis Journal* and *Minneapolis Tribune* before going to the nation's capital in 1935 to become managing editor of the *Washington Post*.

**L**ATE in 1946 a committee was named by Sigma Delta Chi to study the problems facing freedom of information. Successive committees have made annual reports.

In these years the barriers to "the people's right to know" have grown both abroad and at home. So has the committee's annual task. In the past year, a vigorous and conscientious committee explored deeply into suppression of the news at home.

While devoting major attention to the tendency of government, both federal and local, to hide the conduct of office from public scrutiny, the committee did not stop there. It also frankly spanked members of the press themselves for practices tending to muddy the stream of news.

The report was adopted at the

fraternity's Detroit convention in November. It appears on page 10.

**W**AR in Korea made a big change in the life of the staff of the Pacific Edition of *Stars and Stripes*, Armed Forces newspapers published in Tokyo for American service men from Northern Japan to Okinawa and the Philippines. A greatly increased staff was soon covering the front and rushing newspapers to combat soldiers after years of garrison duty and peace time coverage.



RUSS TORNABENE

Russ Tornabene, European combat veteran who had since acquired a master's degree in journalism at Indiana University, went to the Far East as a reservist in the early winter of 1951. There he spent seven months on the staff of *Stars and Stripes*, first as a copy editor and then covering General Headquarters in Tokyo.

Russ tells how the Armed Services paper lived up to a wartime newspaper tradition that goes back to 1918 in "The Stars and Stripes Reports Its Third War" (page 12).

Russ is now a news editor in the NBC newsroom in Washington, D. C. While at Indiana, he co-authored the "School of the Sky" scripts which won a Sigma Delta Chi distinguished service award in 1949. In World War II, he was a tank gunner in Europe.

**W**ERNER RENBERG of the Dallas *Morning News* has an eye for the people and institutions that make Texas something special in other ways than its sheer size and boundless production of wealth.

In the April '51 issue of *The Quill* he introduced the Lone Star state's favorite cartoon character, Old Man Texas, and his creator, Dr. John Knott. In "Texas Almanac Covers the Biggest State" (page 8), he describes a publication that settles arguments, convinces juries and guides investors.

Now a 23-year-old reporter on general assignment for the Dallas *Morning News*, Werner has been a newspaperman since he was 16. At that age, he spent a summer in the Dallas

Bureau of the *United Press* where he filed a pony wire and wrote such copy as he could get his hands on. During his senior year in high school he reported for KTUL in Tulsa, Okla.

He returned to Dallas to attend Southern Methodist University and work again for the *UP*. He was reporter, sports writer and overnight editor before he left the *UP* in 1948 to join the *Morning News* staff. There he is a fellow staffer of Stuart McGregor, editor of the *Texas Almanac*.

**E**ACH year Sigma Delta Chi accords not more than three journalists its highest honor by electing them Fellows of the fraternity. Those chosen for 1951 represent an exceptional range of achievement. "Introducing New Fellows of Sigma Delta Chi" (page 15) tells who they are and how they earned this professional distinction.

**F**RANKLIN M. RECK, who humorously describes the joys and hazards of journalistic free-lancing in "The Pleasures and Perils of a Free-Lance's Life" (page 11), might himself be described as both a free-lance writer and a "free-lance editor."

While theoretically dug in with his typewriter at his small town home for the last ten years, he sallies forth several days a week to act as managing editor of the *Lincoln-Mercury Times* published by the Ford Motor Company. He is also boy's editor of the *Farm Journal*.

The first job he describes as "consultative"; the second involves a monthly department and considerable travel. The rest of his time (when he isn't tapping maple trees or looking for other means of avoiding his typewriter) goes into magazine articles and books.

He has written an even dozen books, nine of them since he said goodbye to his last full-time editorial post in 1941. Two, "The American Boy Anthology" and "The 4-H Story," the official history of the 4-H clubs, appeared in 1951.

A native of Chicago who attended the University of Pennsylvania and Iowa State College, Frank Reck was on the staff of the *American Boy* magazine from 1926 until its demise in 1941, the last five years as managing editor. He was president of Sigma Delta Chi in 1931.

**T**HE *Stars and Stripes* desk men shown on the cover of this issue of *The Quill* are, from the left, Cpl. Harold Morris Jr., Sgt. Norbert Olshefski, SFC Earl Smith Jr., and JO 2d Charles Magee (USN).

## Nominations Invited for

# 1952 SIGMA DELTA CHI AWARDS IN JOURNALISM

Nominations for the 1952 Awards in Journalism to be made by Sigma Delta Chi, Professional Journalistic Fraternity, are invited now. Nominations may be made by the author of the work, the publication or radio or television station or any other party. All awards, except for Public Service in Newspaper, Radio and Magazine Journalism, are offered to individuals on the basis of specific work done by Americans and published, broadcast or televised in the United States during the period of January 1, 1951 to December 31, 1951. Awards are offered for excellence in the following fields:

- \* Research About Journalism: For an outstanding investigative study about journalism based upon original research, either published or unpublished and completed during 1951.
- \* General Reporting: For a distinguished example of a reporter's work.
- \* Radio or TV Reporting: For a distinguished example of spot news reporting for radio or television.
- \* Magazine Reporting: For a distinguished example of current events reporting appearing in a magazine of general circulation.
- \* Editorial Writing: For a distinguished example of an editor's work.
- \* Editorial Cartooning: For a distinguished example of a cartoonist's work.
- \* Radio Newswriting: For a distinguished example of a radio newscaster's or commentator's work.
- \* Washington Correspondence: For a distinguished example of a Washington correspondent's work.
- \* Foreign Correspondence: For a distinguished example of a foreign correspondent's work.
- \* News Picture: For an outstanding example of a news photographer's work.
- \* Public Service in Newspaper Journalism: For an important public service rendered by a newspaper in which exceptional courage or initiative is displayed. Nominations are to be accompanied by a complete file of clippings together with a statement of facts concerning the circumstances which prompted the newspaper in its undertaking and the results obtained.
- \* Public Service in Radio Journalism: For an outstanding example of public service by an individual radio station or network through radio journalism.
- \* Public Service in Magazine Journalism: For an exceptionally noteworthy example of public service rendered editorially or pictorially by a magazine of general circulation. Nominations to be accompanied by a complete file of clippings together with a statement of facts concerning the circumstances which prompted the magazine in its undertaking and the results obtained.

Nominations are not made on any specific forms but each must be entered in a specific division and be accompanied by clippings, manuscript, recording or film with the name of the author, name of publication or broadcasting or telecasting station, and date of publication or broadcast or telecast. Also, a statement revealing the circumstances under which the assignment was fulfilled should accompany the nomination, providing the circumstances were of significance. A nomination entered in more than one division requires a separate entry for each category. Manuscripts, clippings and recordings will not be returned unless written request and return postage accompany the entry.

**JUDGING**—The material submitted for consideration for the awards offered to individuals will be judged by a jury of veteran and distinguished journalists. All decisions will be final. Any award may be withheld in case the judges decide that none of the material submitted is worthy of special recognition.



### February 8, 1952, Deadline for Nominations

Nominations and accompanying material must be received by February 8, 1952 and should be addressed to:

Sigma Delta Chi Awards in Journalism  
35 East Wacker Drive  
Chicago 1, Illinois

Additional information may be secured from Victor E. Bluedorn, Executive Director, Sigma Delta Chi, at above address.

The awards proper consist of bronze medallions with accompanying certificates.



# THE QUILL

A Magazine for Journalists  
Founded 1912

Vol. XL

No. 1

## "Man Bites Dog"

SIGMA Delta Chi's recent Detroit convention produced one item of good, clean fun that seems sure to result in at least some gain for the fair name of journalism. When the professional journalistic fraternity passed a resolution condemning the definition of *journalistic* in Webster's New International Dictionary, it incidentally gave a new twist to an ancient wisecrack on news.

Newspapermen spend their lives quarreling with the dictionary. They practically never win a decision. This time, at long last, newspaperman was able to bite dictionary. Says Webster, of *journalistic*:

"Characteristic of journalism or journalists; hence, of style, characterized by evidences of haste, superficiality of thought, inaccuracies of detail, colloquialisms, and sensationalism; *journalese*."

There is no alternative definition. Sigma Delta Chi with reason called it "a slander upon the thousands of able, conscientious and educated journalists." The fun began almost immediately.

While the convention was still in session, a retired editor of Webster's dictionary explained that lexicographers "can't help what people call journalists." He added: "We try to register the meaning of the word. If a lot of people use it that way, we can't help it." This made no journalist any happier.

WITHIN the next week columnists and editorial writers took up the resolution. Sydney J. Harris of the *Chicago Daily News* admitted that such a definition was "hard lines" but felt that Sigma Delta Chi's resolution merely proved that "one professional society is about as silly and sensitive as another" about its critics.

He quoted an array of eminent men, from Samuel Johnson through Jefferson to Schopenhauer, who had even harsher views on journalism. "Sigma Delta Chi," he decided, "just doesn't know when it's well off."

Malcolm W. Bingay of the *Detroit Free Press* came to the support of the resolution. He conceded that there was a time when Webster's definition was in some degree deserved. He recalled an era when even the term *journalist* was a fighting word among newspaper men.

But he pointed out that journalism has changed greatly, and so have journalists. He declared that such a definition of *journalistic* today, "when the newspaper profession is fighting the greatest fight in history to get the truth to the people," constitutes "a cheap sneer."

I could point out to Syd Harris (he doesn't officially know I was a member of the resolutions committee which approved John T. Bills' complaint for submission to the convention) that Thomas Jefferson made other remarks about the press besides a comment that "the man who

reads nothing at all is better educated than the man who reads nothing but newspapers." Speaking of the violently partisan press of his day, Jefferson also said:

"It is however an evil for which there is no remedy, for our liberty depends on the freedom of the press, and that cannot be limited without being lost."

Or I might ask where the learned and critical Dr. Johnson would be today if a great reporter named James Boswell had not tagged at his heels and made him immortal long after Johnson's own writing was forgotten?

I also feel that Malcolm Bingay was overly modest about any literary deficiencies in the old-time newspaperman. I seem to recall that a man named Dickens was first a London reporter, and a good one.

Rudyard Kipling was subeditor of an Indian newspaper at 17. Mark Twain graduated from journeyman printer to mining camp newspaperman to immortality. I suspect all three will be in demand longer than more elegant scribblers with no journalistic taint.

But such arguments and assurances may not long be necessary. For after the columnists had their say, the *Editor & Publisher* put the matter up to the G. & C. Merriam Company, publisher of the dictionary. The dictionary makers said their definition will "be thoroughly reviewed in the light of this criticism and of current usage of the term." Their statement hit the weakness of their present definition squarely:

"The present Merriam staff feels that the entry is unfortunate in failing to emphasize sufficiently the primary meaning of the adjective, which is given in the first part of the definition, and in linking by means of the word 'hence' the second part of the definition to the primary meaning. For the second part is intended to cover a use of the term in disparaging contexts paralleling the noun '*journalese*,' and this intention should have been made quite clear."

OBVIOUSLY the dictionary intends to do the right thing by us when they issue a new edition. That of course will be qualified by each newsroom's willingness to buy a new dictionary and each journalist's ability to live long enough to see it. In the meantime, let Webster's *faux pas* be a solemn warning on the virtues of brevity.

Most other dictionaries, including Webster's own abbreviated editions, content themselves with such straight adjectival definitions of *journalism* as "of or pertaining to" or "characteristic of" journalism and journalists. The less you say, the less chance you have of getting into trouble.

Certainly Webster could not have expected Sigma Delta Chi to be happy about a definition that, by inference, made it "a professional superficial, inaccurate and sensational fraternity."

CARL R. KESLER

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**blade** *is a sword*



*but* **Blade** *is a newspaper*



Beware of a man with a blade in hand—unless you know how he spells it. Because a lower-case “b” could change a respected newspaper into a dangerous weapon.

Capitals change the meaning of many words. For example, an upper-case initial letter gives Coke a very special meaning. As the friendly abbreviation of Coca-Cola, Coke is a registered trade-mark. As such, it deserves capital treatment.

Good practice requires that owners of trade-marks protect them diligently . . . as you protect the name of your

newspaper. That's why we ask that you make it Coke—with a capital, please.

P.S. A cold Coke goes awfully good after a hot story.

*Ask for it either way  
... both trade-marks  
mean the same thing.*



**THE COCA-COLA COMPANY**

THE QUILL for January, 1952

*Newspapers have the right to print the news. But no law compels a government executive official to give it to them. So the president of the American Society of Newspaper Editors*

## Urges Press Seek Access To Federal Records as Legal Right, Not Favor

By ALEXANDER F. JONES

**M**Y subject is a matter of interest to newspapermen. It is the question of freedom of information on the federal level.

There has been a great deal of lively interest lately in President Truman's directives giving government department heads and their subordinates the right to withhold information on a security basis.

I believe I am safe in saying that newspapermen agree that this directive is thoroughly bad, despite the sincere intent of its authors. It gives bureaucrats another potent weapon in the business of suppressing news and will contribute little to security.

The machinery for greater security precautions was already in the hands of the executive department without any directive. There was absolutely no need of giving department heads the added right to stamp any matter they might deem security "top secret." Security is not defined in the directive, there is no appeal provision and the proper declassification methods are lacking.

All of this has been thoroughly aired, first by the committee of the American Society of Newspaper Editors, which went to the White House last July and later by the Associated Press Managing Editors Association.

**W**HAT disturbs me more is the status of the American press legally in its relations with the executive branch of the federal government.

We like to tell ourselves that we enjoy freedom of the press. How free is our press in our relations with the executive branch of the government?

We have the privilege of publishing the news when we get it. But no official of the executive branch of the government is legally bound to give out information except that which he

may deem "in the public interest."

We have been making a great to-do about restrictions on security matters and blandly ignoring a condition which has existed since this Republic was founded in not insisting on Congress passing a body of laws legalizing our right to examine federal records.

There are no such laws on the federal statute books. That we are able to examine certain records is through the grace of officials "in the public interest."

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**T**HIS article is based on an address by Mr. Jones at the 32nd convention of Sigma Delta Chi.

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Personally, I do not like to operate as a newspaperman on a "grace" basis. I prefer the law on my side. It is difficult enough to get the news sometimes with the law on our side.

The ASNE Committee on Freedom of Information encounters many legal questions and has come to rely more and more on the advice of Harold L. Cross, eminent libel lawyer and former acting dean of the Columbia Graduate School of Journalism.

Eventually, the proposition of having Mr. Cross write a book on the legal rights of the press came before the ASNE. This project was approved and Mr. Cross kindly consented to undertake the work.

It is a tremendous undertaking, involving, as it does, a review of laws, legal opinions and practices in forty-eight states. After a year of hard work, Mr. Cross has completed his work on state and municipal records and proceedings, leaving to the last his research into the federal scene.

He is now engaged in this aspect

Alexander F. (Casey) Jones, executive editor of the Syracuse (N.Y.) *Herald-Journal*, has made scores of talks in behalf of freedom of information.

of the job. In a recent letter, Mr. Cross made these observations:

"The primary inquiry is as to the present state of the law. That, is seems to me, viewed frankly and realistically, adds up to about this:

"In the absence of an act of Congress creating a clear, unequivocal, non-discretionary right to suspect particular records, there is no enforceable legal right in public or press to inspect any federal non-judicial records, the availability thereof being a matter of official grace or indulgence or 'discretion.'"

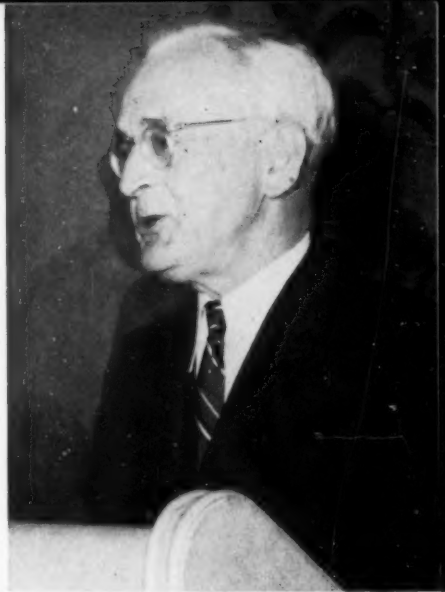
"The Army, it appears, may correctly say: 'The Secretary of the Army has charge and control of all records and papers of the Army establishment and has responsibility for assuring that the information contained therein is utilized in such a manner as will best serve the public interest. The release of information therefrom is a matter for the determination of the Secretary of the Army.'"

"In the absence of such act of Congress any other executive department head might, it seems, correctly say the same.

"Such acts of Congress are rare. As a practical matter, they seem to come into existence only when publicity is desired as the means to an end—as in Section 9(a) of the Internal Security Act of 1950 applicable to the Attorney General's registers of 'communist-front organizations.'"

"Such state of the law appears to

[Turn to page 16]



*It settles arguments, guides legislators and even serves as evidence in court. Its editor has visited all but five of the 254 Lone Star counties which helps explain how the*

## Texas Almanac Covers the Biggest State

By WERNER RENBERG

**A** 672-page book has come off the presses that, in Texas, will be found in more places than any other book except the Bible.

It will be used to settle arguments. It will be used to help make laws. It will be used in court as evidence. It will be used by manufacturers who wish to locate new plants.

The book is the Texas Almanac and State Industrial Guide—Texas Almanac, for short. And cited here are but a thimble-full of its uses.

The Almanac is unusual, but then this should not disturb anyone. Texas is unusual itself; that the Almanac should be unique, then, is consistent.

The Dallas Morning News, its publisher, has had many requests from other states for information on how the Almanac is put out. Some states have started their own, but these ventures did not last past a few editions.

The encyclopedia of Texas, which lists every conceivable fact about the state and its 254 counties, and many inconceivable facts, dates back nearly a century.

Willard Richardson, a Connecticut man, had taken over the Galveston News in 1844. Quite understandably, he got to liking Texas and wanted other Easterners to see the light and settle in his newly adopted state.

So it was that in January, 1857, he finally issued the first Texas Almanac and Emigrants' Guide.

**T**HE book listed everything he thought important about Texas—facts that might lure others there.

Richardson continued his efforts to publish an almanac yearly through 1873 with the exception of 1866. The wartime issues of 1862 through 1865 were of small pamphlet size.

After 1873 the Almanac was discontinued until 1904 when the Dallas News brought out its first issue. (The Galveston News had earlier operated the Dallas News; then the tail outgrew the dog and the Dallas paper became a separate institution.)

The Dallas News dropped it until 1910, then put out two more editions in 1911 and 1914. Then the Almanac was abandoned again.

Things were destined to change on Jan. 1, 1923, when a young fellow

named Stuart Malcolm McGregor came to work for the News. McGregor started suggesting to Publisher George B. Dealey that he be allowed to resume publication of the Almanac.

Stuart McGregor was born Feb. 24, 1892, in Coleman, a West Texas town. His father, Jesse, was a farmer and taught Stuart love of system and the importance of learning.

"We might not have had much food around the house sometimes," McGregor recalls, "but there were always five or six of the best magazines."

Young Stuart was not a bookworm, even though he did like to read. He was an average fellow. Played baseball. Picked cotton.

In 1910, he entered the University of Texas. Jesse McGregor didn't have much money to pay for Stuart's education, but Stuart did not mind. He readily found jobs and worked his way through school being a janitor at a church, mowing lawns and chauffeuring an automobile even though he couldn't drive when he was hired.

He always was carefree, happy and smoked a big black cigar. He belonged to the billiard and chess clubs. Having to work after school did not bother

**Werner Renberg, biographer of the unique Texas Almanac, is a reporter on the staff of the Dallas Morning News.**



him or keep him from making friends.

In 1914, McGregor got a Bachelor of Arts degree. The next year, the university gave him its first Master of Journalism degree. For a while, McGregor worked for newspapers in Austin, home of the university and capital of Texas. Then came World War I and he became a Navy flier.

After the war, he joined the old Texas Chamber of Commerce in Dallas as a publicity and research man. He burned with the idea of compiling a book of information on Texas, like the abandoned Almanac.

He got a job with the News and talked Dealey into starting the Almanac again in 1925. Until 1929, the Almanac was published every year. Depression made it a biennial. Publishing the book every other year since then has worked out nicely; it enables McGregor to insert the actions of the biennial session of the legislature.

**T**HE Almanacs before McGregor certainly must have been worthy efforts. Historians use them still. And they have given the Almanac a prestige for generations.

But McGregor has improved even on what already existed. He has made a career of finding out exactly what the oil production of Anderson County is or how many votes the last governor got.

To this trying task he has devoted a quarter century. His reward has been that in 1951 the News published some 100,000 copies—copies that will be found on school desks and business desks throughout Texas and in many other states.

If circulation figures are a reward for achievement, then McGregor can thank the boyhood days out in Coleman that had made him curious about his Texas in the first place.

He could stand out in front of his home and see three peaks on the horizon. He was eager to know what was beyond the horizon, but he didn't have the means to travel. The only traveling he did was to run away from home; he did this so often that finally his father posted a \$5 reward for him.

What a joy it must have been when he became editor of the Texas Al-





Stuart McGregor, the editor whose boundless curiosity about his big state explains much of the success of the Texas Almanac, reads proof through a big magnifying glass. A younger associate assigned by the Dallas News to help with this huge chore had to quit because his eyes could no longer tolerate the small type of its 700,000 words.

manac. Then he could travel to his heart's content. Some people say McGregor has traveled Texas more than anybody else.

Of Texas' 254 counties, McGregor has been in all but five, he thinks. In some he did not actually have any business, but crossed the county line just so he could boast of having been there. In recent years he has spent much of his time in Austin, looking up things at the State Capitol.

Otherwise, he just hits the open road aimlessly. He hardly knows what town he'll be in at night. If he bothers to wire ahead for a hotel reservation, he usually gets delayed on the way and has to wire a cancellation. Since he knows the Dallas area well, he starts from his house around 3 a.m. to get into as much strange country by daylight as possible.

Driving along with cameras in the front seat, he stops the car whenever he notices something new or unusual. He asks questions of people drilling wells or erecting buildings or picking through rocks. Thus, he gets much of his information first hand.

This information is supplemented by written material from all possible

sources. He gets the lowdown from every county agent. To prove the prestige of the Almanac, it might be said that when he mails questionnaires to the 254 counties, he often has 240 replies back in a week or so.

All this dope—written and memorized—is added to occasional features some authority writes especially for the Almanac. Pictures are added, so are graphs. There is a map of every county. Tables are run by the galley.

The work of making a biennial Almanac out of this belongs to McGregor and his capable secretary, Ruth Harris. They toss off an Almanac in eight months as easily as some newsmen write a long feature.

**A**N almanac contains 700,000 words or so, mostly in small type. From edition to edition, 75 per cent or more of the content is made over. If while an edition is being made up some figure is revised, the page is replated.

E. M. (Ted) Dealey, son of the late G. B. Dealey and now the News' publisher, has repeatedly urged McGregor to get an assistant for this mountainous job. McGregor refused.

Dealey asked the heads of the Texas

and Missouri university journalism schools to suggest some assistants and gave McGregor an ultimatum: Hire or be fired. McGregor hired nobody, and he remains on the job. Once another News staff member, much younger, assisted McGregor but had to give it up because the agate type strained his eyes too much.

And McGregor calmly goes about his work despite it all. An intelligent, chunky man who consistently musses up his hair, McGregor is known for his restlessness and quick, nervous coughing. His small, piercing eyes pore over more documents and periodicals in a two year span than a normal man reads in a lifetime.

All this toil of getting to know Texas as well as the palm of his hand has made McGregor a recognized authority on the state. When somebody wants a legislative act interpreted, he can do it right away. When somebody wants to know the history behind an abandoned house, chances are he'll know it. Texans like to say:

"God and Stuart McGregor know more about Texas than anybody else and what God doesn't know He can ask McGregor."

# Report on Freedom of Information

*Sigma Delta Chi, professional journalistic fraternity, cites a growing encroachment on the right to know from governmental and private groups and through faulty practices within the ranks of journalists themselves.*

During the year 1951 Sigma Delta Chi's standing committee on freedom of information made this careful study of threats to a free press within the United States, from government at all levels, from individuals, from journalists themselves.

The report is both important and highly readable. The editors of *The Quill* consider its publication, in full, a professional obligation to journalism.

**P**reface: Professional men in journalism no longer can regard freedom of information as an academic matter. It is not merely a subject for debating forums, nor for committee reports whose contents are briefly noted and filed away. Freedom of information is the bread and butter of every working journalist in the world, be he cub reporter or senior editorial writer.

For that reason freedom of information deserves and demands continuing, concentrated attention. We must keep the issues alive. We must convince those who stand in the way of free reporting of the news that we are in deadly earnest about free access to the news.

Interest in freedom of information in this country is growing. Encouraging evidence of this can be seen in the unprecedented indignation aroused by the William Oatis case and by the suppression in Argentina of the newspaper *La Prensa*. It is not enough for men and women engaged in journalism to be concerned with freedom of information. The American people themselves must be concerned also. Oatis and *La Prensa* are evidence that such interest can be aroused.

**A**T the outset this committee wishes to give due credit to the outstanding work of the Associated Press Managing Editors Association committee on news barriers and to the comprehensive work and reports of the Freedom of Information Committee of the American Society of Newspaper Editors. These are outstanding efforts on the national level and there are others of considerable

importance on state and local levels.

The aim of this year's Sigma Delta Chi report is to concentrate attention on several fields on the domestic scene. Numerous instances of offenses against the principles of freedom of information are cited, with emphasis on a heretofore little discussed aspect of the problem—interference with freedom of information in the practice of journalism itself. A secondary aim is to offer some recommendations.

Domestic obstacles and barriers to freedom of information are listed as follows:

**1. Through faulty practices in journalism**—Journalistic freedom is threatened from within as well as from without. Loose practices in reporting and editing too frequently result in omission. Here are examples:

An example: reporters, basking in the glow of the off-the-record routine, are the unwitting accomplices of those who seek to color or suppress news. Journalists in all branches of

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It is not enough for men and women engaged in journalism to be concerned with freedom of information. The American people themselves must be concerned also.

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REPORT

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the profession should discourage the off-the-record practice.

We do not say that the off-the-record conference never serves a useful purpose. We say it is a practice that is abused.

Another example: acceptance of gifts and gratuities by members of the working press. Christmas gifts, free passes and other gratuities are usually nothing more than attempts to buy the favor of the press. Sports departments of some newspapers have been the chief offenders.

In at least one large city that has two major league baseball teams, the baseball clubs have traditionally paid for the transportation and hotel bills of the baseball writers. Last

summer one of the baseball writers was mildly critical of one team's direction.

The team's owner telephoned one of the newspaper's executives to say that if the baseball writer accompanied the team on its next road trip the club would be unable to pay his bills. It is gratifying to report that the club owner was told that the writer would accompany the team and that the newspaper thenceforth would assume all bills.

Outright gratuities sometimes take a more substantial form than passes. It is paradoxical that some editors, who wax irate at influence peddling in the government, condone the same kind of practices on their own staffs.

Fred Stein, president of the New York Society of Newspaper Editors and a member of this committee, reports that "Sports promoters encourage sports writers to have a stronger sense of obligation to the promoter than to their newspapers."

"Essentially this situation occurred in New York City in the recent basketball fixes. A New York editor who sought to decide the editorial attitude of his newspaper toward the continuation of collegiate basketball in Madison Square Garden might have good reason to be skeptical of the views of his staffer who covered the Garden, particularly if he knew that last Christmas the Garden presented to each sports writer a sterling silver dinner set for twelve. Most of the writers, I understand, accepted this gift. The uncertainty engendered in the editor's mind should be multiplied by his circulation figure."

**A**NOTHER objectionable practice is that of luring advertisers with promises of generous publicity space. The resultant unnewsworthy material which occasionally finds its way into print tends to pull down the standards of the news columns in the eyes of the readers.

Still another barrier to freedom of information through faulty practices in journalism is what has been aptly described as the easy guidance of news through friendship. We don't mean to imply that a good journalist should be friendless, but the journal-

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For the past ten years, Frank Reck has done part-time editing and freelanced as magazine and book writer.

**M**OST newspapers and magazine men work away in an office with one eye cocked at a dream. The setting for the dream is invariably a small town where folks are neighborly, costs are low and there's no parking problem except on Saturday night. Elms shade the streets, kids fish in the millpond and authentic characters are on hand to mow your lawn and hoe the garden.

In this idyllic setting the dreamer sees himself making a living either as owner and editor of the local paper or as a free lance.

As for the first, I have no worthwhile testimony to offer. Purely through hearsay I understand that the proprietor of a small-town paper has to be good at such things as inventory control, space selling, bill collecting, press tinkering, and hiring graduates who can spell well enough to read proof.

On free lancing I can offer whatever I have learned in the ten years that have passed since I received my last pay envelope from the now departed *American Boy* magazine.

First let me say that the idyllic small-town setting has been just about as pleasant as I ever pictured it. Manchester, Mich., is a town of 1,200 with good stores, a good school, a river and a millpond. The surrounding fields are full of pheasant and squirrel, the lakes are loaded with bass and bluegills, and

## The Pleasures and Perils Of a Free-Lance's Life

You can linger over your breakfast coffee and even tap sugar maples to avoid work. But pay day depends on the mailman and your typewriter is likely to be busiest weekends.

By FRANKLIN M. RECK

a number of the citizens are handy at poker and cribbage.

When one breaks away from a job and settles down in such a spot, his first feeling is one of liberation that reaches its peak when he realizes that he can sleep late on Monday. The sense of independence becomes intoxicating when the subject lingers over a second cup of coffee at the breakfast table.

With the force of a revelation from on high he discovers how habit-formed his life has been up to now, and like a movie flashback he sees the things that once were but are no more. . . . No more hurrying through breakfast, no more stoplight racing to work, no more assignments from the boss, no more rewrites of someone else's limping prose, no more galley proofs, no more caption writing, no more grousing at the monotony of the luncheon menu, no more 5 o'clock and—no more payday. It's a time for shoulder-squaring.

**T**HE exultation lasts until the subject settles down to the sober realization that he has to earn a living, after which further realizations come to him. He learns that his income is discontinuous. He writes a manuscript that is accepted, receives a check in due time—and that is all.

The package has been sold and no more pay may be expected from it. That fine, secure feeling, "There's always another payday," is gone. The postman becomes his most important friend because the postman brings both the good news and the bad. But most important of all, the completion of one manuscript merely means the starting of another, because until he starts another he's unemployed.

This is when the free lance learns that his freedom to fish on Wednesday and loaf on Friday must be indulged cautiously and infrequently.

There is no time in the free lance's life when he can say he is done. There is no quitting time.

Friday afternoon is not the beginning of a pleasant two-day hiatus in the work week, but merely Friday afternoon. No manuscript will let a writer alone merely because it's Friday—not when his bread and butter depend on it. The free lance soon finds that some of his best worrying and working days are Saturdays and Sundays.

Yet, even when the subject finds himself working approximately twice the hours he ever did as a hired man the freedom is still there—he can still knock off on Wednesday if he wants to.

Because a free lance's success is measured by his performance, he can afford only a certain amount of mediocrity. And because he knows this and must constantly key himself up to his best effort, all his sensations take on height and depth. He reaches the height when his manuscript is praised and accepted.

Conversely, when his manuscript is politely and regretfully rejected, his sense of futility is too deep to be sounded. The free lance experiences the extremes rather than the means of emotion and all that saves him is that he subconsciously recognizes and discounts both triumph and despair.

**F**REE lancing brings out in one the most ingenious and artful substitutions known to man. The forces that drive him to the keyboard are relentless, these being in the inverse order of importance, letters from editors, deadlines, and bills.

Against these forces stands man's reluctance to use his brain. All writers hate the sordid business of getting down to wrassling with words. The morning approach to the typewriter is easily the most harrowing ordeal in the range of human experience. It

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## The Stars and Stripes Reports Its Third War

Uniformed newsmen acquire both medals and news in Korea, circulate 130,000 copies of the Armed Forces newspaper from Hokkaido to Okinawa and "snowball" 4,500 can openers to deserving G.I.s. After all, their tradition goes back to 1918.

By RUSS TORNABENE



When frontline G.I.s in Korea asked for can openers, the Stars and Stripes staff eventually rounded up 4,500 of 'em. Here Sgt. First Class Fred Baars, correspondent, turns over a batch to Cpl. George Knight of the 5th Cavalry.

**S**tars and Stripes reporters covering war in Korea found combat newsgathering hadn't changed much in the three-war history of the Armed Forces newspaper.

Here's what Cpl. Ernie Peeler and Pvt. Hal Gamble wrote July 7, 1950, in their first dispatch out of Korea for Pacific Stars and Stripes:

"Somewhere in Korea—Young and innocent as we are we believed this would be a special kind of war—neither of us having been in more than one.

"But it turns out to be the same kind as the one before, and probably the ones before that, back to Alexander's time.

"Itemizing it in the best military manner, and remembering our Clausewitz:

"(1) War is confusion; information of accuracy is hard to obtain.

"(2) War is dangerous; many serious accidents occur.

"(3) War is uncomfortable to a degree; walking up to one's knees in mud does not speed one on his way."

Yes, war is confusion. Pacific Stars and Stripes, like other Far East occupation operations, was unprepared for the North Korean aggression. Peeler and Gamble were the entire reporting staff in those first days of war. No system of copy transmission was dependable. Distribution of the paper to the fighting units was not smooth at first.

Dangerous? Ernie Peeler was lost in combat three days after his first story from Korea was printed. Other reporters later won Purple Hearts, Bronze Stars, other honors.

And as armistice talks came there was a Stars and Stripes reporter with every major outfit in combat, often "walking up to one's knees in mud."

**O**LD-TIMERS can remember the original Stars and Stripes that blossomed in the Hotel Sainte-Anne in Paris, Feb. 8, 1918. Some of the staff went on to fame: Pvt. Harold Ross, Sgt. Alexander Woolcott, Capt. Steve Early and others.

In World War II the newspaper first appeared from a flat-bed press in London's Soho district in early 1942. European Stars and Stripes became as much a legend as its first volumes. By the end of the ETO war, with eight editions from England to the Near East, the newspaper was a tradition.

The first issue of the Pacific Stars and Stripes rolled off a Japanese press in Tokyo Oct. 3, 1945.

Pre-Korean war Stars was more or less a non-spectacular publication. There were parades and military en-

THE QUILL for January, 1952



## Tells Importance Of 1952 Objectives

CHARLES C. CLAYTON, SDX national president and St. Louis (Mo.) *Globe-Democrat* editorial writer, addressing a meeting of the Chicago Professional SDX chapter, declared that all professional chapters and members of the fraternity have a national objective for 1952—to eliminate the barriers to freedom of information and to help make the public conscious of its basic right to know.

"I am convinced," Clayton continued, "that Sigma Delta Chi is the logical organization to undertake this task. We are the largest professional group in journalism. We can speak not only for the publisher and editor, but for the working press, for the teacher, the student, the men in radio and television, insofar as their work relates to journalism, and for the public information man. No other group can present such an impressive cross-section of the profession."

Mr. Clayton added that it was evident that what Sigma Delta Chi will do on the national level to achieve the objective depends primarily on what the professional and undergraduate chapters do. It should be the duty, he said, of each chapter to establish a committee on freedom of information and for all members to be on the alert for practices and proposals which threaten in any way the basic right to know.

"Our national committee," Clayton declared, "should not restrict its work to the submission of an annual report, but should be on the job the year-round, acting both as a separate agency and in cooperation with other organizations in journalism."

Mr. Clayton submitted that the SDX Committee on Freedom of Information made a significant comment in its report when it declared "We have the right to question the motives of those who say they do not trust reporters, or newspapers. We must ask them if they mean they do not trust the public."

## Fee Increase Asked

A proposal to increase the initiation fee for professional candidates, to include a year's subscription to *The Quill* and membership dues for one year, to \$25 has been submitted to the chapters of Sigma Delta Chi by referendum. Voting will take place early in 1952.

The proposed amendment also would raise the current initiation fee for undergraduate members to \$17.50 and includes a year's subscription to *The Quill*.

The current initiation fee of \$15 for both types of members was set in 1938.

## About SDX Resolution

## False, Misleading Statements, Says White House Secretary

### Finney, SDX Lecturer At U. of North Dakota

The first postwar Sigma Delta Chi Lecture in Journalism was delivered at the University of North Dakota by Nat S. Finney, editorial editor of the *Minneapolis Star*, in November.

Finney, winner of a Pulitzer prize for national affairs reporting in 1948 and the Raymond Clapper Memorial Award for best Washington reporting of 1947, spoke before a university convocation and discussed President Truman's recent censorship order on government news.

The address was sponsored by Sigma Delta Chi Lectures in Journalism and the North Dakota undergraduate chapter of Sigma Delta Chi. Harlyn Hannis, chapter president, was in charge of handling arrangements for the program.

Finney spoke of his experiences in Washington, D. C., during World II and the beginnings of a "Creeping Secrecy" now over-growing the affairs of federal government. He assailed all schemes to put government departments into secrecy straitjackets and declared President Truman's attitude toward the free press and free speech rights are terribly misguided.

Finney pointed out the need for a maxim comparable to the one applied to persons accused of wrongdoing. We need, he said, a maxim to test all questions of the virtue of secrecy: That secrecy is wrong until it has been proven right.

The Sigma Delta Chi Lectures in Journalism were established in 1941. A \$500 contribution from Harry Grant, chairman of the board, *The Milwaukee Journal*, accepted by the fraternity for this purpose, led to the inauguration of the program. Under current regulations, financial assistance is made available to undergraduate chapters.



FINNEY

JOSEPH H. SHORT, President Truman's press secretary, has told Sigma Delta Chi that he is shocked by the false and misleading statements contained in the fraternity's resolution opposing the President's executive order. His views were made known in a letter to Victor E. Bludorn, SDX executive director.

Mr. Short labels as "wholly false" the charge by the fraternity that the order duplicates in the name of national security the practices of totalitarian states.

In defense of the executive order Mr. Short wrote that not one sentence or phrase in the President's order in any way affects or controls the channels of communication and information and that the President has under taken to safeguard from potential enemies security information whose disclosure would be harmful to the safety of the United States.

Bludorn, in reply to Mr Short's letter, stated:

"Despite the sincere intent of its authors, Sigma Delta Chi still holds that the existing executive order, wherein civilian officials can arbitrarily draw a curtain of secrecy over information to which the public is entitled, however earnestly administered by government department heads and their subordinates, is a real threat to freedom of information and national security, and should be rescinded in its entirety."

"Even though the American press attempts to give the people a true account of the operation of the government, it is only privileged to publish the information it obtains. The increasing interference with the free flow of news at the source limits the news which the press is able to acquire and make known to the public. This is a dangerous trend."

"The history of this nation has taught us that the American people can be trusted to think straight when they get the facts. When freedom to learn and publish the facts is denied, the whole structure of our democracy will crumble about us and we, as a people shall be dangerously far along the road to totalitarianism. Sigma Delta Chi questions the motives of anyone who would deny this conviction or who would tamper with the American doctrine of freedom of speech and of the press."

"Sigma Delta Chi has no quarrel with necessary military censorship in time

(Continued on next page)

## False, Misleading

(Continued from page 1)

of war. The excellent record of American newsmen during World War II proved their understanding of military security. Furthermore, Sigma Delta Chi already has urged that in the event of any emergency involving the national security a committee of working journalists be appointed to act as liaison between the correspondents in the field and the military authorities in the determination of censorship and other problems related with the proper duties of journalists.

"If need for security precautions is deemed necessary by The President and can be shown, the entire matter should be re-examined. In such an endeavor, Sigma Delta Chi stands ready to cooperate.

"Sigma Delta Chi is concerned with the security of the nation, but it believes the advancement of these views do not endanger the safety of the United States and are consistent with the fraternity's avowed objectives which include—elimination of barriers to freedom of information—and, making the public conscious of its basic right to know."

The text of Press Secretary Short's letter follows:

"Because I know the devotion of Sigma Delta Chi to truth and public information, I am shocked by the false and misleading statements contained in your resolution.

"Among other things, your resolution contains this allegation 'WHEREAS the order duplicates in the name of national security the practices of totalitarian states which, as among their first steps, seized control of the channels of communication and information to the people which they later enslaved.' This charge is wholly false and even a cub reporter would know better. There is not one sentence or phrase in the President's order which in any way affects or controls the channels of communication and information in this country and your effort to link the President's order with totalitarian systems is a detestable slander worthy only of the totalitarians themselves. In other parts of your resolution you say in one paragraph that there is no definition of security and in the next paragraph that the definition of security is difficult. The truth is that the order contains the simplest and most straightforward definition of security which anyone has been able to write—that is, the security of the United States.

"In still other parts of the resolution, the President's order is confused with the censorship plan of World War II. This is one of the most common and insidious mistakes about the President's order. The World War II Censorship office never at any time had any authority or jurisdiction over the classification of secret documents. In other words, the Office of Censorship had no function with respect to the releasing of governmental information from government sources. It was only after an information medium acquired the information that the Office of Censorship had any duty. Then the Office of Censorship advised the medium whether it was safe to publish the information it already had. By contrast, President Truman has placed no limits except the limits of publishers' own consciences upon the publication of information,

## Sigma Delta Chi Resolution on President's Executive Order

"WHEREAS the President of the United States has seen fit to sign an executive order prescribing minimum standards for the classification, transmission and handling of official information relating to the security of the Nations and

"WHEREAS the order contains no definition of security, yet places the authority for determining security on the heads of civilian agencies and departments, and

"WHEREAS the definition of security is an extremely difficult and technical subject for any civilian to comprehend, and

"WHEREAS the order duplicates in the name of national security the practices of totalitarian states which, as among their first steps, seized control of the channels of communication and information to the people which they later enslaved, and

"WHEREAS the order wholly ignores the excellent record of voluntary censorship by press and radio in World War II, when conditions requiring that censorship were of far greater import than at present, and

"WHEREAS the order lacks any authority to which press and radio can appeal, except to the same civilian officials who arbitrarily may draw a curtain of secrecy over information to which our citizens are entitled,

"THEREFORE, be it resolved by Sigma Delta Chi in convention, assembled on this 17th day of November, 1951:

"THAT the Fraternity opposes the order in its entirety, respectfully requests its rescission, and,

"THAT the Fraternity directs the officers and executive council of Sigma Delta Chi to make known this stand to the President."

which media acquired on their own initiative.

"But he has undertaken, as has every President from and including George Washington, to safeguard from potential enemies security information whose disclosure would be harmful to the safety of the United States.

"The Sigma Delta Chi resolution has as another of its false premises the assumption that there was no need to include civilian agencies in the scope of the order. On the contrary, the great majority of civilian agencies of the government are involved in security projects whose disclosure to the enemy would be dangerous to the safety of our nation. The resolution ignores the fact that both civilian and military agencies of the government are prohibited by the President's order from using classification to withhold any non-security information of any kind. In other words, agencies which have little or no security information will have correspondingly little occasion to apply the order.

"My primary disappointment over the resolution is its failure to offer anything constructive for the advancement of the two objectives which both the President and the press share—namely, the safety of the United States and freedom of information."

## About Convention

# This Is What They Said

By NORMAN H. DOHN  
The Columbus Dispatch

Sigma Delta Chi's national meeting at Detroit has changed my mind about conventions.

As a newspaper reporter in a city that ranks only behind New York and Chicago as a convention site, I long ago became skeptical of the worth of such gatherings.

More than 500 conventions are held annually in Columbus, and rarely does a week go by that I'm not called on by the city editor to cover one of them.

My cynical observation was that little or nothing ever was accomplished at such meetings. Delegates seemed to me to be more interested in having fun than engaging in serious business. Meaningless resolutions were passed and politics was rampant as candidates sought organization offices.

So it was with certain misgivings that I set off for Detroit as a delegate of the Central Ohio Professional chapter of Sigma Delta Chi.

Hardly had I settled into the swing of convention activities at the Hotel Fort Shelby than my attitude began to change. I soon realized that Sigma Delta Chi's convention was one with a purpose. It had a full program of work outlined and it set out to accomplish it.

It is unfortunate that more members of the fraternity do not attend the convention. It is impossible to grasp fully the significance and purpose of Sigma Delta Chi until one has attended a national meeting of the organization.

I am convinced that with more publicity and support from its members, Sigma Delta Chi can come to mean the same for journalists as the American Medical Association and the American Bar Association do to physicians and attorneys.

I do not mean to imply that Sigma Delta Chi should become a lobbying body to promote the interests of a profession. With the full support of its 20,000 members, however, it could become a powerful factor in raising the standards of journalism and elevating it to a top rung among other professions.

I was impressed with the concerted effort the fraternity is making to eliminate press barriers in order to preserve the freedom of expression guaranteed by the Bill of Rights.

I like the democratic manner in which the business of the convention is conducted. The idea or suggestion of the undergraduate receives the same consideration as that of a prominent publisher or editor belonging to a professional chapter.

Aside from the strictly business aspects of the convention, I thoroughly enjoyed getting together with other members of the profession and engaging in "shop talk."

The Detroit convention gave me a new insight into the organization. I am a 100 per cent supporter of its objectives. When the annual meeting convenes next November 19-22 at Denver I hope to be among those present.

## Keynote Address

Following is the text of Lee A White's keynote address during the opening session of the 32nd National Convention of Sigma Delta Chi at Detroit, November 15, 1951.

ON THE AUTHORITY of a commercial announcement of a pitch-proposition that just now is afflicting radio fans, the most precious of all human possessions is Memory.

A good argument can be made out in support of that statement, when and if you have thought it over. But Memory can also be among the most boresome of human possessions. Hence, the danger of inviting one who can recall the efforts and achievements of Sigma Delta Chi over 41 of its 42 years, to keynote this, its 32nd annual convention.

"Eyes front!" might well be the catchphrase of this conclave of 1951; there is so much that needs doing in a distraught world, in which the role to be played by a free press is, or should be, of vast importance. If this, the largest of professional journalistic organizations, is not influential through its membership and the publications with which they are associated, in the framing of the future, then an epitaph would be more appropriate than these remarks. But surely, there must be some harvest in return for all the planting that has been done.

WHAT A DIFFERENT world, this in which we live, from that into which the fraternity was born, in April of 1909. Like you, the founders were then old enough to remember (though not to have participated in) three wars of seeming consequence. But the differences that had given rise to the Spanish-American, the Boer and the Russo-Japanese wars had been composed; and in a manner of speaking, it was a peaceful world and a fairly decent one. You could circle it without a passport, if you liked, and be welcome as a customer, if not as a guest, wherever you went.

But the circling was rather slow. You could cross the continent in three and one-half days, if you didn't miss train connections. You could travel from New York to Chicago in 20 hours, if you could think of a reason for wanting to. But you couldn't fly. The airplane was just coming out of the experimental laboratories and shops. It was only five years since the Wrights lifted their plane off the sands of Kittyhawk and held it in the air for 59 seconds. It was, however, the very year in which Louis Bleriot crashed the headlines by flying the English Channel's 31 miles in 37 minutes.

There was a growing sense of safety at sea, thanks to young Marconi. When the U.S. Republic went down in a winter fog following a collision off Nantucket Light, three months before Sigma Delta Chi was organized, it was the CQD of Jack Binns, wireless operator, which brought rescuers. That had never happened before.

THAT WAS THE YEAR when Dr. Cook and Admiral Perry presented their rival claims to the discovery of the North Pole; the year when the United States remitted \$16,000,000 of indemnity funds to China, to be used for the education of her youth in America; and dare I add,



LEE A WHITE, of the Detroit News, past president of Sigma Delta Chi, keynoted the convention.

the year when the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific exposition was held on the campus of the University of Washington, leaving behind it fragile structures in which President McClelland and I subsequently suffered, as student and as teacher.

Finally, it was the silver anniversary of the change of the name of Indiana Asbury University to DePauw; a year when Greencastle was proud of its 800 or so students, now increased to 2,100.

It is not wasted time that is spent reviewing the past, even superficially. All along the way that we have traveled are signposts, erected by men very like ourselves; signposts that have served in other years, and may still serve, to guide and give assurance, while we are setting out our own. They give me the courage almost to risk prophecy. The future of Sigma Delta Chi is capable of surpassing our present dreams by at least as much as the accomplishments of 40 years surpass the dreams of 1909.

My own memories, and those of a few others among us today, touch hopes and endeavors of which you will perhaps have been unaware. Perhaps the issues were not as grave as we thought; but let's list some that were outstanding, following organization:

- Expansion, for strength as well as kudos.
- Change in character from "honorary" to "professional."
- Recognition by other fraternities, teachers of journalism, and the profession.
- Clear and clean separation of SDX from the field of advertising; concession of that field to Alpha Delta Sigma.
- Founding of QUILL, initially as a fraternal "house organ," and its gradual transformation into a professional magazine.
- Promotion of adequate professional instruction in journalism.
- Stiffening of requirements for admission of members and chapters.
- Initial editing and eventual revision of original ritual.
- Abandonment of secrecy; substitution of privacy of ritual.

- Endeavors to devise, or discover for adoption, a satisfactory code of ethics for journalists in Sigma Delta Chi.
- Provision for election of members from the practicing profession.
- Provision for and development of professional chapters, entitled to be represented by voting delegates at conventions.
- Re-classification of members and creation of Fellows.
- Establishment of National Headquarters and employed staff.
- Setting up of awards of merit.
- Historical sites project.
- Establishment of Quill Endowment Fund; Employment (or Personnel) Bureau for placement of members and service to employers.
- Growth from two to 86 chapters, and from a score to approximately 20,000 members.

It will surprise no one that, by and large, in the earlier years the conventions devoted their energies chiefly to organizational problems. It is a mark of the maturation of the fraternity that four of the five major items of business on the agenda, as announced in THE QUILL have to do with professional practice and professional advancement; and that the themes of the principal speakers are unrelated to structural and procedural matters.

Unchanged through the years, the declared Purposes of Sigma Delta Chi are as worded by the founders:

1. To associate journalists of talent, energy and truth into a more intimately organized unit of good fellowship.
2. To assist the members in acquiring the noblest principles of journalism and to cooperate with them in this field; and
3. To advance the standards of the press by fostering a higher ethical code, thus increasing its value as an uplifting social agency.

We can overlook the rhetorical deficiencies of this declaration. Our adherence is to the idealism of the founders, and our wistfulness is for the confidence with which they essayed a task of large proportions and considerable difficulty.

Forty-two years is a sufficient period to test purposes and plans. It should be possible now to report something with regard to achievements.

1. We are still seeking an acceptable definition of journalist. We may cock a quizzical eye at each other, and ask the degree of talent, energy, and truthfulness we represent. But we have achieved an organized unit of good fellowship, without ever having overemphasized the social aspect. The original designation of Sigma Delta Chi as honorary allayed the anxieties of social fraternities.

2. Certainly the noblest of principles have been set before the members in the ritual of Sigma Delta Chi. How deeply imbedded they have become in the minds and hearts of the membership, each must answer for himself. In some cases, known to each of us unfortunately, the lessons taught at the four desks, if ever learned, have been forgotten. Is the fraternity in any wise responsible?

3. It is no challenge to the character and the good intentions of those on the roster that we cannot claim to have discovered any new and higher peaks on which to plant the banner of our convictions and our aspirations. To admit that

fact is not to confess failure, but rather to acknowledge the lofty ideals of those who furnished leadership before our time. If the standards of the press have been advanced (and to the researcher if not the casual observer, that would seem to be indisputable), then where to place the credit may be a question. If in any part it belongs to Sigma Delta Chi, then it is not because we have ourselves given expression to "a higher ethical code," but because we have lent the force of our numbers to long and well-established principles.

Implicit in the Purposes of Sigma Delta Chi as stated are two major problems which every organization such as ours must perpetually face. They are:

1. Standards of admission to membership.

2. Formulation of acceptable guiding or governing principles, whether called code, canon or creed, and however applied or enforced.

I

It is discomforting to observe in any such organization as ours, which has drawn to itself so many exceptional men dedicated to the practice of journalism, should have had any difficulty in defining its standards of admission to membership, and enforcing them.

Certainly the early intent was clear. Sigma Delta Chi was born to recognize youths who seemed not only ambitious to undertake a career in journalism, but who had perceptible qualifications. (I like, though I have not accepted the definition of those qualifications as "an itch to write and a shirt tail full of type.") Definitely, the urge was upon them to inform, advise and entertain through the editorial columns of the press. They had no other bent or purpose; and they sought out their kind.

YET ALL THROUGH the years, there have been pressures to alter the eligibility requirements, or, it must be admitted regretfully, to evade them by misinterpretation, misrepresentation or subterfuge. But at the same time there have been those who adhered steadfastly to the original intent. That which stands out most strikingly is not the defections of youths on campus, though of these there have been enough. Generally speaking, undergraduates have proudly kept faith with the founders, or at least have been submissive. Not so much may be said for the professional chapters, which have too often revealed a disturbing indifference to tradition and constitution, in nominating their contemporaries for membership. Or has it been ignorance, or both.

Sigma Delta Chi has every reason to be proud of the achievements of those of its members who, for their own quite sufficient reasons, have terminated their careers in the editorial rooms of newspapers and periodicals, and ventured into other fields. The number who have distinguished themselves in related and unrelated businesses and professions is legion; and their contribution to the professional chapters, now numbering 33, is and has been both pleasant and stimulating. Their experiences in journalism often prove a valued resource which younger members are quick to discover, to advantage. As associates, they constitute a substantial proportion of the membership of many professional chapters. To augment their number, which can be accomplished only by disregard of the

letter or the plain purpose of the constitutional provisions, is to disturb the identity of chapter and fraternity as professional journalistic organizations, and thus to do them harm. And most certainly it would be unjust, and none would wish to impose more rigid rules of eligibility to membership on undergraduate chapters than on professional.

The problem arises, no doubt in part, out of the real difficulty of establishing the boundaries that set journalism apart from other callings, especially when those with editorial experience are in demand in so many fields. To try to determine the rational, practical description of those boundaries has been the task of a special committee of advisors to the Council; a difficult and uncompleted task which will not, therefore, come to the floor of this convention.

It is conceivable that time's changes have brought us to a point where the correctness of our course needs re-determination; but it is certain that the one we set out upon ought not to be left capriciously.

When Sigma Delta Chi was founded, radio as an instrument of communication was barely known. The motion picture was in its infancy. Of the possibilities of the transmission of photographs by wire or wireless, we had not the vaguest notion, and any would have been adjudged madmen indeed who, out of either knowledge or imagination, ventured to predict television or facsimile. Pen-and-ink artists still served, when the possibilities of the camera fell short of the needs of the press for purposes of illustration.

Naturally, the skills that compassed the practice of our profession were few and could be neatly packaged in the training course of a single individual, if he was ambitious and energetic. The gaps that separated a craftsman from a professional were so narrow as to be easily vaulted. Hence it was a commonplace to see a printer move "up from the case" to a responsible editorial position, even in metropolitan circles; or, in less populous areas, combine all the functions of newspaper publishing.

THIS COULD BE SAID, without much dispute: That if the skills differed widely in character, and in the amount of grime that marked their pursuit, they still had something like a common history, and related glamor. There were shared ex-

periences that made mutual understanding of trade practices, traditions and ethical codes possible, and the lines of demarcation both clear and respected. Significantly, there was a more definite cleavage between business and editorial offices than between the composing and city rooms; a cleavage that went beyond the differentiation in the tasks performed, and reached into the field of ethics.

II

Because Sigma Delta Chi for all of its life has recognized other editorial fields than the newspaper, it has long purposed to develop and publish, to its members if not to all the world, its conception of the principles by which we perform our duties and measure our moral worth. The preparation of a code was, indeed, a pledged purpose of the organization at birth.

The attempt has been made a number of times. I was startled to discover that I myself had a humble part in one such effort, an effort that was for some unrecorded reason abandoned. Out of the experience, far back in the early '20s, I salvaged a great respect for the Land of Oz, which got along amazingly well with but a single law: "Behave yourself." An earnest, determined committee of great sagacity and admirable practicality has been long at work on this problem; and I share with you an eager interest in the fruits of their striving, which are to be presented to the delegates at this meeting.

As I ponder these very important considerations—membership and ethics—I am brought sharp up against a question of vast importance to us all, both as practitioners of the profession of journalism, and as citizens in world that has been made well-nigh mad by the confusion of ideologies, none of which we can completely escape.

Of what consequence are matters of fraternal organization, eligibility to membership, and the ethical principles that ought to guide us, and for the most part do, if the freedoms of assembly, inquiry, thought, speech, publication, and worship are denied us?

With what confidence can we set about the tasks for which we have volunteered or to which we have been assigned, if the liberty we have been taught to respect and to cherish is to be in constant jeopardy, or lost?

Have we any greater responsibility as journalists than to look the hard, cold facts in the face, and determine what we are willing to pay for what we may too easily lose, and losing, perish spiritually if not physically for want of it?

III

MEN HAVE HAD GOOD REASON, always, but especially during the 33 years since the first world war, to fear for their rights. At no time has this been truer than today, when the freedom of the individual is a present problem everywhere. Even in those few areas where it has not been lost, or is not in imminent danger of extinction, it exists precariously.

The hazard is greatest where the heritage of freedom is thoughtlessly accepted; where it is assumed ever to be safe from violation, and is prized only after it is gone. On the other hand, freedom has the best chance of survival where there is a militant advocacy of hu-

### 1,104 Sigma Delta Chis Are Now Key Club Members

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Note: If you want both a Key Club membership and life subscription to *The QUILL*, send \$66.



man rights; an eternal watchfulness; a quick and determined reaction to any invasion of those rights.

There would seem to be some occasion for renewed faith in the integrity and solidity of American concepts, seeing with what alacrity and what ardor, the press, the Congress, the Administration and the people have reacted to such events as the imprisonment of William N. Oatis, AP correspondent in Czechoslovakia, and the seizure of Argentina's great newspaper *La Prensa* by the Peron government. Yet it is discouraging not to sense an equal reaction to the President's order of September 24 with respect to "the handling of information which has been classified in order to protect national security"—an order that astute observers of the press do not hesitate to identify as repressive and sinister. Perhaps it is because the implications of "freedom of information" are too little understood and appreciated.

Freedom is as many-sided as the personality of man. To the ancient concept of freedom as implying not much more than exemption or liberation from slavery, imprisonment, or physical restraint, we have added by dint of much thought and painful sacrifice, concepts of intellectual, spiritual, political, economic and even emotional freedom.

I hold to the belief that if we may be assured of physical and intellectual freedom, we shall assure ourselves of those other freedoms, come slowly though they may, and no matter what persons or what forces place themselves in opposition to our just ambitions and purposes.

We do not know much, in this country, of those direct and indirect means of censorship which have so persistently and so gravely handicapped not only the press of the nations suffering under authoritarian governments, but our own correspondents upon whom we depend for faithful representation of the world in which we live. The direct methods involve, on the one hand, imprisonment, expulsion, or harassment of an individual or his associates, and confidantes, civil or official; or on the other hand the suppression of news, the mutilation of his articles, and the closing of his lines of communication. It may almost be said that the indirect methods are the more obnoxious and obstructive, since there is less opportunity for the ingenious and adroit reporter to identify the forces against which he must employ his wit, and which he must, if possible, circumvent.

THESE TACIT, invisible censors hamper his activities; clog the normal channels of news; occasion the inexplicable closing of doors that once were open to him; multiply the obstacles to his normal social life; deny him the customary courtesies and prerogatives; alienate his friends and associates. The price of escape from harassment, and of recovery of privileges, is a more discreet handling of the news; a less objective rendering of services to his readers.

Yet as indicated, we ourselves have not only knowledge, but published record, of restrictions placed upon the informative American press against which only vigilance, fundamental law, and a generally wise judiciary offer an adequate protection.

Scurrying through a casually assembled mass of clippings, we find evidence of physical assault, sometimes with the

definite purpose of doing great bodily harm, sometimes with an aim to destroy evidence, involving the wrecking of cameras, theft of reporters' notes, and kidnapping or coercion of witnesses.

We see reporters and editors threatened with imprisonment for contempt if they dare to print court proceedings in a murder case, or if they persist in challenging or criticizing the illegal acts of corrupt or indiscreet judges, or if they refuse to disclose the sources of confidential information.

We witness acts of reprisal, aimed at the vital income or resources of a publisher. We encounter projected legislation, designed to punish with great severity the publisher of information obtained from governmental sources without authorization of "competent authority"—a proposal which, however innocent in appearance and intent, holds within it evils worse than those aimed at.

We note the persecution of a reporter through the lodging of successive false charges against him, and his repeated arrests, trials, convictions and punishments, for exposing abuses in the administration of the laws in a disorderly community.

We read of an editor, threatened with prosecution under a law having no bearing on the case, if he persists in writing editorials of a tenor unacceptable to an underling in a governmental bureau.

We smile at the unusual spectacle of an advertiser going into court to compel a newspaper to accept his patronage; and of "Pro Bono Publico" trying to force an editor to publish his lucubrations in the "public letter box."

These instances, supplementing the more notable cases which have been adjudicated by the United States Supreme Court, no more than suggest the hindrances to effective endeavor which the press encounters here and elsewhere, always. Nor do they take account of the equally grave problem of freedom of the press as applied to other printed products than the newspaper; or freedom of speech, or the newly propounded and as yet undefined question of freedom of the air, all of which bear directly and emphatically upon the all-inclusive problems of freedom to know.

In discussion of freedom of speech and the press, it seems to me most unfortunate that there is an inclination to focus attention upon those who speak, write and print as though they were accorded a liberty not accorded to all men.

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We need to dig to the roots of the matter; we need to observe and to acknowledge that the freedoms of which we so glibly and possessively speak, are not our freedoms, but the freedoms of all the people; their protection from the perils of ignorance; from the disabilities that result from unawareness of the deeds and the utterances and the thoughts of men, quite without regard to whether those men be sages or fools.

Unfortunately our freedom of expression in speech and in writing, and our freedom to know, which is basic to both, do not imply of necessity that all who are properly the beneficiaries will take advantage of their rights.

Yet, assuming (as perhaps I should not assume) our faith in the fundamentals and objectives of democracies and democratic institutions, we must believe that on the whole and over a long period of time, and a wide field of subject matter, the reader or the listener will be intelligent and judicious in his choice of information, and efficient in the application of such information to his and to society's ends.

WE MUST ASSUME that either rationally or instinctively he will make such wise choice; or else that the experience of wrong choice will prove, in itself, to have been worth the price of error, being an educational process resulting in the advance of the individual and of society.

We may understand, without condoning, assaults made upon the freedom to know, even by those who do not in reality wish to strike at human liberties.

Our task, it seems to me, is one of converting to faith in the collective wisdom of mankind, those to whom direct and violent action seems natural when their emotions are stirred. And to this task of conversion we need to bring the ardor of the evangelist and the social conscience of a saint.

More than that! If we journalists are to sustain the people in their quest for indisputable facts and valid opinions; if we are to divert their minds from areas of misinformation and prejudice, then we must evidence our purpose by the zeal with which we employ the column of the public press.

If, being human, we must inevitably reveal in our interpretative writings the color of the glass through which we see darkly, then so much more determined must we be that our news columns shall be objective; that they shall be justly apportioned; that they shall offer no evidence of neglect or concealment or distortion of those facts in which the public has natural interest, and which in all justice should be known. If we fail of our obligation, how may we expect the franchise to be intelligently exercised, and the duties of citizenship fulfilled?

MY CONCLUSION is, as I hope you have come to suspect, that the repression of ideas is unjust per se; that it is ineffectual because it merely drives dissidents under cover; that it is subversive because it breeds antagonism, suspicion, hate, revenge, in a world that has need of peace and a great love among men; that it is undemocratic, and hence in opposition to the spirit and the aim of our society and our government; and finally, that it is unnecessary as a means of coping with evils however great, since truth should be the best answer to untruth, justice to injustice, reason to unreason.

# Sigma Delta Chi's Code of Ethics

*(Editor's Note: These Canons of Journalism were drawn up and adopted by The American Society of Newspaper Editors in their annual conventions of 1924 and 1925. The 1926 convention of Sigma Delta Chi, sitting at Madison, Wisconsin in November, officially adopted the Canons in behalf of the fraternity.)*

The primary function of newspapers is to communicate to the human race what its members do, feel and think. Journalism, therefore, demands of its practitioners the widest range of intelligence, of knowledge, and of experience, as well as natural and trained powers of observation and reasoning. To its opportunities as a chronicle are indissolubly linked its obligations as teacher and interpreter.

To the end of finding some means of codifying sound practice and just aspirations of American journalism these canons are set forth:

**I. Responsibility**—The right of a newspaper to attract and hold readers is restricted by nothing but considerations of public welfare. The use a newspaper makes of the share of public attention it gains serves to determine its sense of responsibility, which it shares with every member of its staff. A journalist who uses his power for any selfish or otherwise unworthy purpose is faithless to a high trust.

**II. Freedom of the Press**—Freedom of the press is to be guarded as a vital right of mankind. It is the unquestionable right to discuss whatever is not explicitly forbidden by law, including the wisdom of any restrictive statute.

**III. Independence**—Freedom from all obligations except that of fidelity to the public interest is vital.

1. Promotion of any private interest contrary to the general welfare, for whatever reason, is not compatible with honest journalism. So-called news communications from private sources should not be published without public notice of their source or else substantiation of their claims to value as news, both in form and substance.

2. Partisanship, in editorial comment which knowingly departs from the truth, does violence to the best spirit of American journalism; in the news columns, it is subversive of a fundamental principle of the profession.

**IV. Sincerity, Truthfulness, Accuracy**—Good faith with the reader is the foundation of all journalism worthy of the name.

1. By every consideration of good faith a newspaper is constrained to be truthful. It is not to be excused for lack of thoroughness

or accuracy within its control or failure to obtain command of these essential qualities.

2. Headlines should be fully warranted by the contents of the articles which they surmount.

**V. Impartiality**—Sound practice makes clear distinction between news reports and expressions of opinion. News reports should be free from opinion or bias of any kind.

1. This rule does not apply to so-called special articles unmistakably devoted to advocacy or characterized by a signature authorizing the writer's own conclusions and interpretation.

**VI. Fair Play**—A newspaper should not publish unofficial charges affecting reputation or moral character without opportunity given to the accused to be heard; right practice demands the giving of such opportunity in all cases of serious accusation outside judicial proceedings

1. A newspaper should not invade private rights or feeling without sure warrant of public right as distinguished from public curiosity.

2. It is the privilege, as it is the duty, of a newspaper to make prompt and complete correction of its own serious mistakes of fact or opinion, whatever their origin.

**VII. Decency**—A newspaper can not escape conviction of insincerity if while professing high moral purpose it supplies incentives to base conduct, such as are to be found in details of crime or vice, publication of which is not demonstrably for the general good. Lacking authority to enforce its canons, the journalism here represented can but express the hope that deliberate pandering to vicious instincts will encounter effective public disapproval or yield to the influence of a preponderant professional condemnation.

*Editor's Note: The A. S. N. E. adopted the above Canons of Journalism at their 1924 convention, and their 1925 convention voted to add the following paragraph:*

To its privileges under the freedom of American Institutions are inseparably joined its responsibilities for an intelligent fidelity to the Constitution of the United States.

*Editor's Note: Since 1925, A. S. N. E. has made changes in Section VII above. SDX, however, has not adopted any of them.*

## SDX Personals

WEB JONES (Oregon '26), San Francisco and Portland magazine writer and newspaperman, has been named editorial director of *Western Family* magazine, Hollywood, Calif.

NORTH CALLAHAN (New York Prof. '44) has signed a contract for his new book, "Smoky Mountain Country," with Duell, Sloan and Pearce, Inc.

CONNIE E. STEWART (Georgia '48), formerly in public relations office of Virginia Polytechnic Institute, has been named editor of the *Yale and Towne News*, Salem, Va.

NEAL T. ENGLISH (Ohio State '49), formerly classified advertising manager of *Xenia (O.) Gazette*, is now editor of the *Hallmark News Letter*, Hallmark Productions, Inc., Wilmington, O.

OSCAR S. GLASBERG (Ohio U. '47) has resigned as news director of WNBH, New Bedford, Mass., to join the news department of WMGM, New York.

VIC ROWLAND (Stanford '40) has been named acting publicity director of the American Broadcasting Co., Hollywood, Calif., Western Division.

MERRILL SAMUELSON (Kansas State Prof. '50), instructor in journalism at Kansas State College, accepted a summer internship on the *Kansas City (Mo.) Star and Times*.

GEORGE H. MILLER (Missouri '40), professor of journalism at Butler University for three years and former newspaperman, has joined the staff of the Louisville, Ky., Chamber of Commerce as director of publications.

JAMES ETZEL (Minnesota '46), former editor of the *Moose Lake (Minn.) Gazette* and winner of the Sigma Delta Chi award for Courage in Journalism in 1950, has returned to Minnesota as editor of the *Bemidji Northland Times*, weekly newspaper. Mr. Etzel had previously been doing press relations for the Montana Board of Health after having sold his weekly paper in Moose Lake.

PHILIP E. BEAK (Missouri '50) is now an assistant professor on the staff of the Henry W. Grady School of Journalism, University of Georgia.

VICTOR DANON (Syracuse '51) has enrolled at the School of Advanced International Studies, a graduate school of the Johns Hopkins University.

## Frick, Ex-Newsman, Heads Baseball

Ford Frick, (DePauw '15) former baseball writer, and for 17 years the president of the National League, was elected the commissioner of baseball, succeeding A. B. Chandler.

Mr. Frick, a native of Wawaka, Ind., and a graduate of DePauw University, Greencastle, Ind., was a college correspondent before becoming a reporter on the Colorado Springs (Colo.) *Telegraph*. He later was a sports writer in Denver and New York. In 1930, he became a radio sports announcer and four years later became publicity director of the National League. He succeeded John Heydler as president of the league.

## Benesch to Head Washington Bureau

Aaron G. Benesch (St. Louis Prof. '49)

has been appointed chief of the St. Louis *Globe-Democrat's* Washington bureau, which is being enlarged.

Benesch was city editor of the *Star-Times* for 18 years before that newspaper ceased publication. Prior to that, he was political writer for the *Star-Times* and on the staff of the old St. Louis *Times*.

He was at various times, Jefferson City correspondent of the *Times*, political correspondent, political editor, city editor and managing editor.



A. G. BENESCH

## SDXPJF

Article One, Section One of the Sigma Delta Chi, Professional Journalistic Fraternity Constitution says "the name of this organization shall be: Sigma Delta Chi, Professional Journalistic Fraternity."

Next time, please use it correctly, and full name whenever possible.

## Serving Uncle Sam

Lt. RON M. LINTON (Michigan State '51) is leading a tank platoon with the 1st Armored Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

Lt. BRUCE UNDERWOOD (Southern Methodist '34) has been named public information officer at Pepperrell Air Force Base, St. John's, Newfoundland.

JOHN M. SELF (Missouri '49), former managing editor of the *Shelby (Mont.) Promoter*, has been ordered to active duty with the Armed Forces.

JEROME ROSSO (Minnesota '51) is now an ensign in the U. S. Navy.

EDWARD MAGNUSON (Minnesota '50), formerly with the *Minneapolis Morning Tribune*, has been called back to active duty with the Navy.

WILLIAM CHEVALIER (Minnesota '51) who recently received a 2nd Lt. commission, is awaiting call to active duty with the U. S. Army.

Lt. Col. RALPH E. PEARSON (Missouri Prof. '50) is now editor of the new *Missouri Police Journal* and assigned to the Far East Command.

WILLIAM L. FITCH (Wash. State '50) formerly northwest representative of Harcourt Brace & Co. is now assistant Public Information Officer at Ent Air Force Base in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Major CHARLES V. KAPPEN (Wisconsin Professional '46) has been recalled to active duty as public information officer of the 7th Armored Division at Camp Roberts, Calif.

(For Members Other Than Undergraduates)

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A LITTLE help from each of us is what THE QUILL needs. And journalism needs THE QUILL, a purely professional journal.

A MEMBER of Sigma Delta Chi



campments to report. There were Japanese government stories, and the constant flow of vacation and furlough wonderland features.

Suddenly, without a war cloud to give warning, the 38th parallel became a blazing battleground, and American and other United Nations troops in Japan and in the Far East were committed to combat.

**T**HE newspaper, publishing a full-size, eight-column daily in Tokyo, filled its pages with stories of returnees from the battle zones, of civilians caught in the webbing of war, of the first enemy plane loss, the first Purple Heart.

In June, 1950, forty-two Americans composed the staff: three officers, thirty-three enlisted men and women, and six civilians. Nine Japanese worked in the Tokyo office.

Late in 1951, almost seventy men and women, representing the four major branches of service, were on the newspaper, working from Tokyo to the battleline, from the northern Japanese island of Hokkaido to Siam.

When the war broke out—83,900 copies of *Stripes* were printed daily. When the United Nations forces launched their attacks on Inchon Sept. 16, 1950, copies of the special Korea edition were air-dropped.

Combat troops one month later began receiving the Korea edition from presses rebuilt in Pusan. Here is the publishing picture: all copy is channelled into the newsroom in Tokyo, on the third floor of the *Nippon Times* building. Japanese linotype operators (setting type in English they cannot read) handle all typesetting. GIs make up pages.

The chases are cast into mats that are rushed by jeep to the Asahi Press nearby, where 54,000 copies of *Stripes* are printed for distribution in Japan, Guam, the Ryukyu islands (Okinawa) and the Philippines. Special page mats, together with major news pages, are flown each evening to the presses in Pusan, which print another 76,000 copies.

Distribution in Japan is now made by a circulation net run by Asahi. In Korea, circulation is handled mainly by mail clerks throughout the outfits. *Stripes* officials realized it was impossible to get the paper into the hands of the foxhole soldier daily, but the effort was tremendous.

Since July 1, 1951, the *Pacific Stars and Stripes* has published a 16-page tabloid, printing four editions off the presses by 3 p.m. They are: Ryukyus, Tokyo-Yokohama, All Japan and Korea. With the exception of the free Korea editions and copies for



Above, SFC Doug Dubois, Pacific Stars and Stripes war correspondent, sets up shop in liberated Seoul. Below, Capt. Billy H. Thompson, managing editor, works at a Tokyo desk as cluttered (or more so) than news desks back home.



Makeup men work on forms (with type set by Japanese compositors). From the left, SFC Walter Overstreet and T.Sgt. David Jenkins and S.Sgt. Frank Sparks.



hospitals in Japan, *Stripes* sells for five cents a copy.

With more than 130,000 copies running off the presses seven days weekly, the newspaper is a major journalistic venture.

*Stripes* combat reporters saw the war where they could best report it—up front. Cpl. Ronnie Dare, a reservist now returned to civilian life, was the first war correspondent in recaptured Seoul. Sgt. Bill Fitzgerald, head of the Korea bureau, sent stories written at Munsan in the first days of the truce talks.

Let's take a typical story written at the front, and trace it to the printed column. Sgt. Jim Gilbert, who has three Purple Hearts and four rows of ribbons, was assigned to the 25th Infantry Division. He lived with the troops, made trips along the front to the hot spots, and generally had the Tropic Lightning division's movements well at hand.

During or after an engagement, Jim would phone Fitzgerald at the EUSAK (Eighth U.S. Army, Korea) headquarters, to give him a story. Fitzgerald tied Jim's story in with the other frontline dispatches into a daily or bulletin roundup. The story was phoned to Tokyo by censors, where it was edited and printed.

Sgt. Dick Kemp wrote a graphic paratroop piece after he jumped with the 187th Regimental Combat Team over Munsan. Many other reporters traveled up front, where an M-1 was as necessary as a typewriter.

The adventure of Air Force correspondent-artist T/Sgt. Corliss A. Miller made good reading in many Stateside newspapers. Miller was lost behind enemy lines for ten days while on a *Stripes* assignment, and only luck and fortitude brought him back.

Every newspaper has its community, and the vast Far East is the *Stripes*' community. The newspaper fell into a "communal" project a year ago when "Operation Snowball" was sponsored by the paper.

The project began when a cook from the 1st Cavalry Division wrote an appeal for a can opener. It was sent to him. The resulting short that appeared in the paper snowballed into one of the biggest accomplishments of a "community" paper.

Other responses to the article caused more can openers to flow from Japan to Korea, until more than 4,500 of them had been shipped to the combat zone.

This is but part of the story. When the can openers were donated by outfits in Japan, and civilians in the States and Canada, requests for

other needed items poured into the newspaper. Only individual requests were honored: *Stripes* didn't want bulk orders stockpiled for "ration" distribution. If a man needed an item, he got it.

"Operation Snowball" recap shows that 15,000 writing sets, 10,000 writing tablets, 1,100 lantern mantels, the can openers and, of all things, cases of yeast and baking powder, were sent in this huge program.

A feature article about every United Nations unit, numbered at nineteen nations, has been written by Andy Headland (formerly a sergeant on the paper). Headland is a feature writer for "The Far East Review," feature section of the paper.

The *Stars and Stripes* is served by the three major wire services. The Signal Corps supplies pictures which are engraved by a Japanese firm.

Although a majority of staff positions are held by Army men, a Navy chief is in charge of the proof room and, an airman is the chief artist. The city editor is an Army sergeant and a former paratrooper lieutenant handles the business office for the

Pacific Edition of the newspaper.

United Nations officials have on several occasions expressed their satisfaction over the integrated and balanced newspaper published by the U.S. armed forces.

When I'm asked about the *Stripes*' "editorial policy," I'm reminded of the first visit I paid Col. James Quirk, who was Gen. Matthew B. Ridgway's press adviser when the general assumed command.

Quirk said simply that the armed forces publishes the newspaper, and will make only those demands any publisher would ask: That the staffs do their best in supplying news.

That was the last time I ever heard "policy" mentioned. As long as the paper kept good journalistic practice in hand, it has never needed to shake because of "brass," an occupational hazard of service publications.

With Capt. Sidney B. Cardozo, officer in charge, and Capt. Billy G. Thompson, managing editor, exercising good editorial judgment, the *Stars and Stripes* has accomplished its objective: a good newspaper for the Far East servicemen.

## The Pleasures and Perils of A Free-Lance's Life

(Continued from page 11)

beats the indecision that precedes the plunge into a cold lake.

The solution to this impasse is the Substitute Activity. The chief requisite of this device is that it be important and necessary enough to permit the subject to engage in it without losing his self-respect. Here one's wife is a great help since she can usually find something that needs fixing.

This writer's substitutions range through all the usual ones of leaky faucets, sticking windows, fence mending and lawn-mower tinkering. On one memorable occasion he postponed the march to the typewriter by going forth to tap one maple tree and ended up by tapping eight trees and boiling down ninety gallons of sap, thereby avoiding the grim business of writing for two whole days.

Writers are generally so well aware of the danger of postponement that they employ almost any artful means to force themselves to work. It is rumored that J. P. Marquand's method of making himself deliver his regular stint is to employ a tyrannical secretary. His theory no doubt is that he might beg off to himself and

get away with it, whereas begging off to another reveals his weakness.

Yet the discomforts involved in being one's own taskmaster cannot outweigh the genuine pleasure in discovering a line of writing that is acceptable and thus earning a living.

The pleasure even compensates for the lack of status attributed to him by his fellow townsmen. This attitude is illustrated by a conversation with a local merchant.

"What do you do?"

"Write."

"You—you have an office in Detroit?"

"No."

"Don't you go anywhere during the day? Where do you work?"

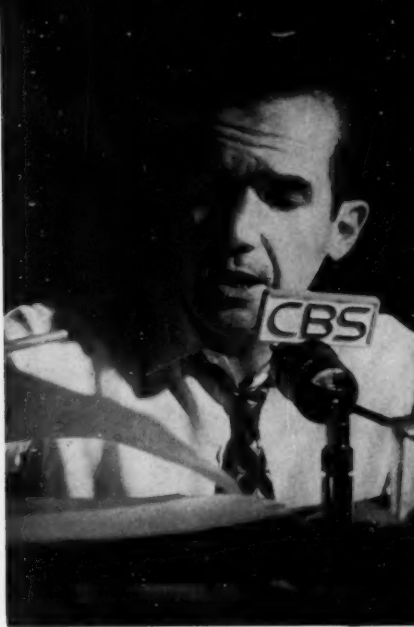
"Home."

"You just sit there and—write?"

"That's about it."

He scratched his head. "We've had just about one of everything in this town. We even had a painter once. But an author—we never had one of those before."

His incomprehension may be pardoned. Even the free lance himself is sometimes confused.



Honored by the journalistic fraternity as leaders in their profession were (from the left) Irving Dilliard, editor of the editorial page of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch; Dr. Alberto Gainza Paz, exiled publisher of Buenos Aires dictator-seized La Prensa, and Edward R. Murrow, noted reporter and commentator for the Columbia Broadcasting System.

## Introducing New Sigma Delta Chi Fellows

**T**HE editor of one of this country's distinguished editorial pages, a newscaster who has been repeatedly cited both as an outstanding reporter and interpreter of events at home and abroad, and the Argentine publisher whose battle against dictatorship has made him a world symbol of the struggle for a free press were elected Fellows of Sigma Delta Chi for 1951.

They are Irving Dilliard of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Edward R. Murrow of the Columbia Broadcasting System and Dr. Alberto Gainza Paz, former publisher of La Prensa.

Murrow is the first radio newsmen to be elected a Fellow since Sigma Delta Chi initiated this top journalistic honor four years ago. Dr. Gainza Paz is the first journalist outside the United States to be so honored.

**D**ILLIARD has been editor of the Post-Dispatch's liberal and crusading editorial page since 1949. His appointment followed nearly twenty year's work as an editorial writer.

Teaming with Daniel R. Fitzpatrick, the Post Dispatch's famed editorial cartoonist, he has directed or shared many of the paper's notable crusades against corruption or injustice. A recent example was the campaign which finally enabled Ellen Knauff, G. I. war bride, to enter this country. For more than three years,

the Post-Dispatch fought immigration red tape, a Supreme Court decision and Congressional committee before it was able to right this wrong.

Irv Dilliard joined the Post-Dispatch staff in 1928, after graduating from the University of Illinois and doing a year's graduate study at Harvard University. He returned to Harvard later as a Nieman Fellow.

His years as a newspaperman were interrupted by three years of military service in World War II. He was commissioned a captain in 1943 and served in France and Germany after attending the Military Government School at Charlottesville, Va. He left the Army in 1946 with the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Irv has contributed to various magazines and has written for such standard reference books as the Dictionary of American Biography. He has at various times been Midwestern correspondent for the Christian Science Monitor, the Nation and the New Republic.

He is a former president of Sigma Delta Chi. An incident during the recent convention of the fraternity illustrated Irv Dilliard's deep interest in professional journalism and the training of men to practice it.

During the ride to Ann Arbor to attend a football game, most older delegates were only too happy to re-

lax. But in the back of his bus, Irv Dilliard was surrounded by journalism students giving them a man-to-man account of an editorial crusade.

**E**DWARD R. MURROW, whose nationally broadcast weekday report was recently followed by a Sunday television show, is a great reporter who never worked on a newspaper. His radio byline, a calm "This is the news," is familiar to millions who have turned to his 15-minute evening CBS spot for both original reporting and comment.

His career as a reporter started three years after he had won his first radio job in 1935 and had gone to Europe to arrange a series of educational programs. Enroute to Poland to set up a children's broadcast for CBS' "School of the Air," he learned that the Nazis had marched into Austria. He flew to Vienna to broadcast a notable report of the Germans' arrival. His career as a radio reporter was launched.

Since the Austrian invasion, Ed Murrow's assignments have ranged from Munich to the London blitz and from North Africa to the European Theater of World War II. Among his notable achievements was his "Orchestrated Hell" broadcast describing a flight as an observer on a bombing run over Berlin in 1943.

The second of Murrow's two Pea-

body Awards cited him as "one of the most reliable and shining lights" in news analysis. He has been honored also by the National Headliners Club, the Overseas Press Club and the Institute for Education by Radio. He is a director of CBS.

A native of North Carolina, he attended Washington State College. From 1930 to 1932, he was president of the National Student Federation, a post that led him to the assistant directorship of the Institute of International Education and Europe.

**D**R. Alberto Gainza Paz had been publisher of *La Prensa*, Buenos Aires newspaper famed as the world's leading Spanish language journal, for more than a quarter of a century before its expropriation early in 1951. This action by the Peron-ruled Argentine legislature followed a gallant fight during which *La Prensa* remained independent against the hopeless odds of dictatorship.

Dr. Gainza Paz recently returned to Uruguay, where he is living in exile, after a visit to the United

States which reached the proportions of a triumphal tour. His many honors included award of a Doctor of Journalism degree by Northwestern University. His deep devotion to a free press, as expressed in several able speeches, and his personal modesty won him newspaper coverage probably unprecedented for any journalist. Among his honors was initiation into Sigma Delta Chi.

His views on the press were expressed in the November issue of *The Quill*, under the title of "Why Dictators Fear a Free Press." Previously the story of *La Prensa's* suppression was told in the June issue in Ernie Hill's "The Murder of *La Prensa*."

Dr. Gainza Paz, who confidently expects to regain direction of *La Prensa* when a free press returns to Argentina, is of the third generation of the family which founded the newspaper. Educated at the National University at Buenos Aires, he carried on and built up its reputation both for extraordinary news coverage and independence in politics.

## Urges Press Seek Access To Federal Records as Legal Right, Not Favor

[Continued from page 7]

be created by the combined effect of the following:

"1. The doctrine that the courts have no jurisdiction against the President to compel him to perform any act incidental to his office, whether purely ministerial or not. The right of the President to withhold records in exercise of discretion, though frequently asserted and exercised, has not been fully tested.

"2. The doctrine that the courts will not issue mandamus where heads of departments are political or confidential agents of the President, their acts as such being only politically examinable, or where in any case officials have discretionary power to withhold, as they do except in the presence of such acts of Congress.

"3. The doctrine that mandamus is discretionary in any event, by reason whereof, for example, inspection of federal records has been withheld because exercise of a right of inspection by one citizen might lead to demands for such rights by others with result-

ing swamping of the records office.

"4. The line of opinions of attorneys general which, whether right or wrong, operate as a practical matter to bar access. They add up to this: 'The records of your department are executive documents acquired by the government for the purpose of administering its own affairs;—and must, therefore, be classed as privileged communications whose production cannot be compelled by a court without the express authority of a law of the United States.'

"5. The doctrine, apparently of common law origin, that there is no general right of inspection of records of executive departments of government which are not intended as notice but are kept merely as evidence of transactions in the department.

"6. A series of acts of Congress, few in number, providing for inspection (and attendance at proceedings).

"7. A series of acts of Congress, numerous, attaching secrecy. (In-

come taxes, veterans' data, etc.)

"8. An almost total dearth of those fine, resounding judicial decisions declaring the right of the people to know in connection with state and municipal records. In fact, one engaging in study in this field notes with instinctive dismay the dimensions of the philosophy of secrecy in the federal field in contradistinction to the general rules of inspection elsewhere in our system of government. I am speaking of legal right, of course, not of the fruits of grace and indulgence as to which there appears to be difference of opinion.

"A common official point of view is that of the head of the Board of Parole to Mr. Pope: [James S. Pope, executive editor of the *Louisville Courier-Journal*.] 'In the future . . . desired information will be supplied if, in our opinion, such information would be compatible with the welfare of society.'"

**I**T should be plain to everyone that the American press must act in seeing to it that Congress does give consideration to the right of the people to know what their government is doing—that definition of "public interest" be taken out of bureaus and into Congress and the courts. I owe to Mr. Cross the statement that "I like law, not grace."

In speaking at Syracuse University in May, 1950, I stated that if I was to guess where a first-rate scandal might be found in Washington, I would look into the affairs of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation for the simple reason that its operations were conducted secretly and without any public information.

That was a shot in the dark. All I knew was that I had never been able to penetrate the curtain of secrecy surrounding that organization. One year later, the RFC was on everybody's front page.

The current revelations in the Internal Revenue Bureau are enough to shock us all as to the necessity of lifting the veil at the U. S. Treasury. But as it stands, we have no legal rights and must depend on what bureaucrats hand us.

President Truman has suggested civil service for collectors of the Internal Revenue Bureau. I suggest that if such a law is enacted, a rider be attached that would open the income tax returns of every collector to press and public.

I suggest that obtaining the legal right to the records of our federal government, within security limits, should be the end towards which we in journalism should all work in the coming year.



# Report on Freedom Of Information

[Continued from page 10]

ist is on dangerous ground who has such close friendships with news sources that he may not be able to evaluate or write his news impartially and objectively.

Finally there is noted a possibility that some newspapers may be doing less than their best in presenting information because they are intimidated. Libel suits, especially by public officials, have been filed with the clear purpose of frightening newspapers so they won't dare to publish any more news gathered through aggressive investigation.

Such lawsuits are bothersome and expensive but if they are not fought courageously, without thought of out of court settlement, there is danger that other newspapers, fearful of being the next target for a nuisance libel suit, will deprive their readers of controversial news which should be published.

We regard the indictment in Lake Charles, La. of five newspapermen as an attempt to intimidate the press. The Lake Charles paper had the temerity to criticize law enforcement officers for not curbing gambling in the city. A grand jury, called to look into malfeasance by officers, instead indicted the newsmen for defamation of public officials.

In Pasco, Wash., a daily paper has been defending itself in a long drawn out libel suit filed by a prosecuting attorney it had accused of failure to act against defective construction of homes for veterans.

## 2. On the federal level:

(A) *Direct and indirect censorship*—The free flow of information is impeded on the federal level by both direct and indirect censorship. The most recent example of direct censorship was the President's order giving non-military branches and bureaus of the government the authority to classify (suppress) information in the name of national security. The protests and objections raised against this order are entirely justified.

We feel that this order cannot be allowed to stand without drastic modification. As we interpret it now, the edict means that a vast number of persons inexperienced in classification procedure will pass judgment on what is information of use to a potential enemy. There is not room in this report to go into all the

dangers in this unprecedented peacetime order.

Another example of direct federal censorship that has at last been corrected is the law forbidding removal by states of secrecy surrounding their welfare rolls. An amendment to the tax bill now makes it possible for states to decide themselves whether welfare rolls shall be opened to those having a reason for inspecting them. The law prohibits, however, the use of the rolls for political or commercial purposes.

This congressional action does not mean that welfare censorship has

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**Reporters, basking in the glow of the off-the-record routine, are the unwitting accomplices of those who seek to color or suppress the news.**

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REPORT

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ended. It remains for a majority of the states to take action. In some states such action must await the convening of the legislatures. In the state of Washington, for example, the last legislature enacted a law under duress, locking its welfare records. The federal government had threatened to cut off its matching funds if this were not done. Now Washington cannot lift the secrecy veil until the legislature convenes the next time in January of 1953.

The majority on this committee does not believe that welfare rolls should be published in part or in entirety without good reason. But it does feel that those with a legitimate purpose, including newsmen, should have access to the rolls to check suspecting "chiseling" and waste of public funds.

**F**EDERAL censorship until recently kept secret the names of those to whom large sums of public money were loaned by the Reconstruction Finance Corporation. Credit for breaking this censorship is due largely to the Tampa (Fla.) *Tribune*, which midway in 1951 asked the federal government for

1. a list of all RFC loans in Florida and
2. a list of Federal Housing Au-

thority projects built under FHA Regulation No. 608 in Florida. The Florida state offices of the RFC and the FHA flatly refused the requests. The *Tribune* appealed to the Washington administrators of the two agencies. Again the requests were refused. Each administrator ruled that the loans were the private business of the lender and the mortgagee.

The *Tribune* argued that both RFC and FHA were using taxpayers' funds and that refusal to disclose the records constituted censorship. The newspaper prepared to carry the fight to the country's leading editorial groups. Then both administrators relented and agreed to make "an exception" for the *Tribune* by releasing the records. Since then, it is our understanding, lists of RFC loans have been made available in all states.

This committee endorses the declaration of a group of news executives who met in Evanston, Ill. on an occasion honoring Dr. Alberto Gainza Paz, former editor and publisher of *La Prensa* in Buenos Aires. This declaration said in part: "The American people are in danger of losing their rights to freedom of information by default unless they demand of their public officials the right of free access to the facts about their government. This is the right of the people which cannot be taken for granted, and must be fought for every day."

**I**NDIRECT censorship on the federal level takes several forms. One of these is the off-the-record conference. Journalists themselves are often at fault for allowing their lips to be sealed in such conferences where public officials give out information, not for the public, but for "background material."

Another way information is kept from the public is through the "executive session." The press is locked out during deliberations of public bodies and a "handout" is issued. The evil of this practice was brought sharply into focus in June of 1951.

At a locked door session of the Senate Banking and Currency Committee, Senator Capehart of Indiana voted against price controls on meat. But the next day Senator Capehart on the Senate floor delivered an impassioned speech in which he posed as a great friend of the housewives while he lambasted President Truman for not freezing prices sooner.

Senator Blair Moody of Michigan, himself a professional journalist until his recent appointment to the Senate, and who was a member of the Banking and Currency committee, challenged Senator Capehart. He asked why the senator in the secret

meeting voted for the meat packers, then bellowed in public for the housewives.

Red-faced, Senator Capehart sputtered his rage at Senator Moody's audacity in exploding this particular farce in senatorial courtesy. But Senator Moody, still fresh from his newspaper days, stood his ground and asked why a senator's position on a matter of such importance should be kept secret.

**(B) Press Handouts**—In 1949 the Hoover Commission report put the cost of government press releases at \$74,829,467 a year and said there were some 45,000 press agents on the federal payroll, most of them disguised under other titles. The number and cost, if anything, has increased since.

The information officer, we believe, has a legitimate place in government. The federal government is so complex that it would be impossible for the press to cover adequately the multitude of government activities without the help of the men and women charged with furnishing information about their departments and bureaus.

Unfortunately, however, not enough government information people confine their activities to furnishing the press and the public with unbiased, authentic accounts of what takes place in government. All too often the government official expects his publicity man to be also a promotion man, "selling" him to the public or to Congress, and engaging in propaganda.

For example, on Jan. 14, 1951, the Veterans Administration issued a handout on the appointment of Vice Admiral Joel Thompson Boone, a retired navy officer, as the administration's chief medical director. A paragraph far down in the six page handout said that Boone succeeded Dr. Paul B. Magnuson, "whose resignation previously presented has been accepted."

One enterprising news service dug behind the handout and reported that Dr. Magnuson and the Veterans Administration administrator, Carl R. Gray Jr., had been fighting for three years and that Gray finally had fired Magnuson. The government handout did not say that Magnuson submitted his resignation in 1948 and that he refused to submit a new one when Gray finally decided to fire him.

It later was revealed that the entire Veterans Administration was under investigation and, as one columnist said, a senate committee com-

pletely vindicated Dr. Magnuson. But you wouldn't know this if you depended on the government press agents for the facts about your government.

The proper function of the government press agent is to provide information that is as objective and unbiased as reports which newspapers are expected to give the public. It is deplorable that this proper function is not more widely recognized.

**(C) Federal Propaganda**—On Jan. 27, 1948, Representative Forrest A. Harness of Indiana, chairman of the House committee which investigated government propaganda, said on the House floor:

"The sole legal and ethical function of a federal information service is to

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All too often the government official expects his publicity man to be also a promotion man, "selling" him to the public or to Congress, and engaging in propaganda.

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issue factual, objective and studiously unbiased information. Specific safeguard against the abuse of that function is provided in Section 201, Title 18, of the U. S. Code.

"Unfortunately, however, the law has been, and is being, violated repeatedly by numerous administrative agencies. In hundreds of ways, some devious, some blatantly open, federal agencies, officials and employees are ignoring or flaunting this legal safeguard often for the deliberate purpose of fostering sentiments or support for administrative policy or viewpoint.

"We need only to remember that if the power of federal propaganda is applied for a good and wise purpose on one occasion, it can be applied on another for a purpose mischievous and dangerous. And whether the immediate purpose of government propaganda is good or bad, the fact remains that individual liberty and free institutions cannot long survive when the vast powers of the government can be marshalled against the people to perpetuate a given policy or a particular group of office holders. Nor can freedom survive if all government policies and programs are sustained by overwhelming government propaganda."

Federal propaganda constitutes an interference with the free flow of legitimate information about the

functions of government. It results in instances where government attempts to mold public opinion to fit the ideas of those who have been elected or appointed, not to guide public thinking, but to be guided by it. The pages of the Congressional Record are crammed with documentary evidence of federal propaganda.

For example there is the ten-year fight of the Social Security Administration, materially abetted by the U. S. Public Health Service, the Children's Bureau, the U. S. Office of Education, the U. S. Employment Service and the Department of Agriculture, to further the cause of national health insurance, which is regarded by many as a form of socialized medicine.

Over the years hundreds of pamphlets, booklets and press releases were issued by these six federal agencies, all favorable to the program they advocated. Not one pamphlet was issued pointing up the evils of state medicine as practiced in totalitarian countries or socialized medicine as practiced in Great Britain.

One pamphlet issued by the Public Health Service even went so far as to advise its recipient: "You can write a letter to the readers' column of your local newspaper and tell your editor why the readers of the paper should back the national health insurance bill."

Another example concerns the Brannan plan. On March 30, 1951 it was announced that Ralph S. Trigg, administrator for the Production Marketing Administration, and his deputy, Frank K. Woley, had been demoted by Secretary Brannan. The *Associated Press* reported outright that the demotion of the two men resulted from an order by Mr. Trigg that his agency was not to be used to broadcast literature for the Brannan plan, and that his employees were not to campaign for or against it.

**(D) Military and Diplomatic Censorship**: One of the most troublesome obstacles to the free flow of public information is in the military field. Just how much information the American people have been denied over the years due to unnecessary military "classification" will never be known. There are in the military files documents a hundred years old still labeled "secret." Plans the Union Army made for fighting the war against the Confederacy are carefully locked away just as if their disclosure now would endanger the security of the country.

A classic example of classification of news is in the Korean section of the Wedemeyer Report which until last May was classified as "secret."

Another example is a transcript of conversation between General MacArthur and President Truman on Wake Island a year ago.

No one supposed that this conversation had even been recorded, in shorthand or otherwise, until this "secret" material somehow found its way into the hands of a New York Times reporter. This "classified" matter obviously was "leaked" by someone interested in giving the public a piece of information contained in the report.

Progress seems to have been made in persuading the Air Force to be less restrictive when newsmen are trying to gather information on a military plane crash in the civilian territory. Nevertheless in Ft. Worth this year an Air Force general, displeased with the way a newspaper had covered a plane crash, imposed censorship on that newspaper and forbade anyone under his command to give that paper any information of any kind. This highhanded action, of course, was rescinded upon appeal to higher authority.

**3.** *On the State Level:* The barriers of propaganda, censorship and press agency found on the federal level are duplicated in varying degrees on the state level. The *Editor and Publisher* reported in April, 1951 that forty-two states were employing 700 press agents at an annual cost of \$4,000,000. In 1950 the New York State Society of Newspaper Editors found that the state government at Albany was spending \$500,000 a year on 100 press agents and that the total cost of state printing of propaganda was \$3,000,000.

Late in 1950 a committee representing the New York editors called on the New York State Public Information Council at Albany which is composed of the official state press agents. Twenty-eight were present. The editors said they were tired of the poisonous and evasive propaganda in the press handouts. The official spokesman for the press agents replied: "It is just going to continue because our job is to present the news just as favorably to our bosses as we can."

The chief of an *Associated Press* bureau in an Eastern state reported: "Whenever the AP attempts to get behind a government release, the public relations chap of that department is always out to lunch or somewhere. Invariably the head of a department will refer the reporter to the public relations officer and he in turn continues to duck until the story reeks with age."

A Missouri editor complained:

"Various state agencies are taking away the right of local office managers to talk. If we make an inquiry about a story at a state labor office, for instance, the chances are that we will be stalled off, and about three days later a press agent from the state capital will walk in with an eleven page answer to a simple question. Those boys are always on guard."

A precedent for state guarantees of press freedom was set in 1776 when Virginia adopted a constitution wherein it stated:

"Freedom of the press is the greatest bulwark of liberty. None but a

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**When an advertiser endeavors to suppress or color a news report, he is joining the foes of freedom of information.**

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despotic government would attempt to restrain it. If it be restrained, all liberty fails."

This was adopted five days before the Declaration of Independence and eleven years before the thirteen original states got around to ratifying the federal Constitution with its First Amendment stipulating that Congress shall make no law abridging freedom of the press.

The principle of a free press, we hold, places upon newspapers the grave responsibility of giving to a free people a true account of the operation of government, for it is only through knowledge that a free people can fight off any encroachment on liberty and justice. But if newspapers are to uphold that responsibility they must have free access to all records of government.

Many states have adopted laws that provide access to all public records for the tax payers and newspapers, but some states are most lax today in living up to this. And some states have no laws whatever in making their governmental records available to inspection. That, in the end, leaves it up to the public officials.

Michigan, Florida and North Carolina have excellent laws on the inspection of public records. Many other states including Iowa, Louisiana, Wisconsin, Arkansas, Minnesota, Nevada, Montana, Utah, Mississippi, Oregon and Kentucky also have good laws on this subject.

**4.** *On the Local Level:* Attempts to deny the press access to pub-

lic information can be found on the local level too, but the obstacles close to home are usually easier to overcome than those farther away. The pressure of public opinion sometimes can be brought to bear quickly in a local situation.

The newspaper not infrequently runs up against a local public body that does not want all its actions reported to the public. School boards, city councils, county commissioners, police headquarters and sheriff's offices are among the most frequent offenders.

Local bodies frequently try to tie the hands of reporters with executive sessions and off-the-record remarks and conferences. Sometimes, too, elective or appointive officials deny reporters access to public records either out of malice, ignorance of what constitutes privileged matter, or deliberate defiance of statutes guaranteeing access to public records.

**A** COMMON method of conducting a public business in the dark is through calling of meetings by public bodies at unscheduled times without notifying the press. Also officials sometimes gather in odd places. One editor reported meetings held in the cellar of the town jail.

The New Bedford (Mass.) *Standard-Times* fought for eighteen months before it won the right to cover school committee sessions in the town of Fairhaven. This is an outstanding example of how persistence by a newspaper that is conscientious about its obligations can win out over forces opposed to freedom of information.

Another example is provided by the *Providence Journal and Bulletin* which fought and won a battle for the right to inspect tax abatement records in the city of Pawtucket. In this case the U. S. Court of Appeals ruled that municipal officials do not have the power to withhold fiscal records and that the "existence of such power would be quite a variance with democratic principles as developed in this country."

We recommend on the local level a practice followed by newspapers that encounter difficulties in getting news from a public office. They ask their readers: What is the office or officer trying to hide? They arouse the public's suspicions, and usually it doesn't take long before closed doors are opened and locked records are revealed.

**5.** *In the Professions:* The studies of this committee reveal examples in two professions of ob-

stacles to free expression through the press.

In law there are some disturbing indications of attitudes developing which are not compatible with what we believe are the true precepts of free information rights and responsibilities. We cite for example the statements made in connection with the so-called Florida rape case.

Last April the United States Supreme Court unanimously reversed the conviction of two Florida Negroes sentenced to die for the rape of a white woman and ordered a new trial. Seven of the Supreme Court justices ruled that Negroes had been discriminated against in selection of the jury. Speaking from the bench Justice Robert Jackson said, "It is becoming a question of whether under modern methods of publicity a fair trial can be granted any man." The Florida case was a sensational one involving mob violence, and newspapers in that part of Florida covered it thoroughly.

The justice's reactions to such coverage can be seen in his statement that the case stirred deep racial feelings in the area and that this was "exploited to the limit by the press." The editor of one of the large papers which staffed the trial said that Justice Jackson's criticism was unwarranted, unfair and inconsistent with the facts.

His paper hammered editorially at the evil of mob violence and pleaded for calmness and justice. And the actual trial was conducted in a calm and orderly manner. In his court opinion Justice Jackson said "... every detail of these passion-arousing events was reported by the press under such headlines as 'Night Riders Burn Lake Negro Homes' and 'Flames From Many Negro Homes Light Sky in Lake County.'"

Apparently the Justice believes that newspapers should not report the burning of Negro homes by lawless mobs because such reporting might arouse racial feeling. Following this line of reasoning it was not proper to report the attempted assassination of President Truman by a Puerto Rican. The press, to conform to this view, would hardly dare report any crime or act of lawlessness.

In February, 1951, Judge Simon H. Rifkind,\* a former member of the federal bench in New York City, offered the New York Society of Newspaper Editors a proposal of a

watch dog committee to guard against "trial by newspaper" as an alternative to restrictive legislation.

This proposal called for a joint committee of editors and lawyers to patrol the New York legal front and to say what newspapers could print before a trial. Judge Rifkind listed the following "major gripes" of lawyers and judges against newspapers:

1. Publishing a defendant's criminal record before the trial.
2. Publishing alleged "confessions" before trial.
3. Obtaining statements from witnesses on probable answers to questions which a judge has ruled should not be answered before a jury.

4. Comments on the credibility of witnesses or guilt of the defendant. Judge Rifkind echoed the opinion of Justice Jackson by saying that public indignation is mounting against the courts because of the be-

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**We must combat the notion that the public can know too much. The American people can be trusted to think straight when they get the facts.**

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lief that it is no longer possible to get a fair trial under the bright lights of publicity. "If the public sentiment grows," he warned, "it will extend beyond the bench and the bar and be directed at the press. Then you will have to submit to legislation."

The New York editors rejected Judge Rifkind's proposal on the sound grounds that it was impractical and that newspaper men do not want to be chained to any outside agency that would decide what is to be printed. If the free American press ever permits one minority group to censor its news, then it would be only a matter of time before other minority groups would seek the same privilege. We hold that justice cannot be impeded by truth and that there are on the statute books adequate laws to prevent abuse of the truth.

As an effective answer to Judge Rifkind and Justice Jackson, we present a quotation from the *Yale Journal*, regarded as the "bible" of many lawyers and jurists: "Unrestricted comment is an important check on corrupt, inadequate, abusive or politically dominated police and judicial authority... restrictions on the press would keep from circulation some material vitally needed by an informed electorate."

The medical profession presented an unusual example in the state of Washington this year when the State Medical Society included in its public relations program a suggested "Code of Cooperation between Doctors and Hospitals and the Press."

The proposed code, while drafted with the best intentions, actually called for what amounted to pre-censorship of medical news by individuals designated to deal with the press. To the credit of the doctors it can be said that they invited a newspaper editor to speak on this subject at their annual convention and received his criticism in a co-operative spirit.

**6. In Private Enterprise:** Many newsmen encounter difficulties with news sources in private fields. The day may have passed when a railroad would try to keep reporters from getting the facts about a train wreck, but there are many industrialists and business men who seem to take the attitude that what happens inside their plant gates is their private affair and the public is not concerned. Usually this results in nothing more than poor public relations for a company but it can constitute a real barrier to the free flow of information to which the public is entitled.

The evils of press agency in the private field usually involve attempts to get into print material which should be paid for as advertising. Such attempts lead to the abuses concerning gratuities and gifts mentioned earlier in this report.

However, we want to recognize the legitimate place of public relations personnel in private enterprise. Much information is furnished to the public by such persons that would not and could not otherwise be gathered and disseminated by regular newsmen.

When an advertiser endeavors to suppress or color a news report, he is joining the foes of freedom of information. How often advertisers are successful in such attempts will never be known. But it is encouraging to see that many newspapers refuse to be intimidated by an advertiser who threatens to take his business elsewhere if the paper does not conceal from the public some piece of news that would put the advertiser in a bad light.

Private enterprise should realize that public understanding of private enterprise will be endangered by its failure to tell its story openly and honestly in a way that does not arouse public suspicions or distrust. Too frequently, for example, in labor

\* Judge Rifkind's views on the rights of the press and the right to a fair trial were printed in the March, 1951, issue of *The Quill*: "When the Press Collides with Justice."



disputes the employer, afraid he may say the wrong thing, will tell an inquiring reporter nothing, leaving the press no alternative but to present a one-sided account of a dispute.

**C**onclusions: The foregoing shows there is widespread fear among persons in authority that the public may come to know too much. All the efforts to suppress, to distort, and to delay information that should be given to the people by the American press is an alarming portent of totalitarianism.

The totalitarian state shapes the thinking of the people by propaganda and by allowing the public only such information as will mold favorable attitudes toward those in control. This very thing is being attempted at various levels in the United States today.

The professional status claimed for journalism demands acceptance of

the obligation to render public service by seeking out energetically and with determination the information needed by the people to arrive at the intelligent decision necessary in the functioning of a government by the people.

This responsibility must be accepted by every journalist everywhere, whether he be a stringer for a press service, a cub on a county weekly or a skilled specialist on a metropolitan daily. And every editor owes it to his profession, to his newspaper and to his readers to fight for free access to all the news.

Only when the crusade is taken up by working journalists everywhere—a daily crusade for the right to obtain and present the news as the reporter and editor see it—will we have real freedom of information. We must combat the notion that the public can know too much. The American people can be trusted to think straight when they get the facts.

We must teach young journalists entering the profession to recognize the influences which try to distort or conceal news. We must teach them to be suspicious of those who won't allow the public to know the truth. We must teach them to ask why such people want to censor or distort or "classify."

We have the right to question the motives of those who say they don't trust reporters or newspapers. We must ask if they mean they do not trust the public.

[This report was prepared by Norman Isaacs, who recently became managing editor, Louisville Times, and Russell McGrath, managing editor, Seattle Times, co-chairmen; V. M. Newton Jr., managing editor, Tampa, (Fla.) Tribune; Charles Campbell, British Information Service, Washington, D. C.; Lyle Wilson, Washington manager, United Press, and Fred W. Stein, editor, Binghamton, (N. Y.) Press.]

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Single veteran, 25, with college degree in radio and journalism desires to specialize in radio or TV news. Have more than one year's radio experience. Southerner with no geographic preference. Box 363, The Quill.

THE QUILL for January, 1952

#### ARKANSAS

Experienced public relations and publicity man looking for change to Midwestern College. M.S., Univ. of Illinois 27, also experienced as College Journalism instructor, alumni editor, sports publicity director, and adviser to student publication. Box 233, The Quill.

#### CALIFORNIA

Reporter, 26, with metropolitan newspaper and wire service experience, desires position with east coast newsmagazine or daily newspaper. Single veteran with B.S. in Journalism. Box 344, The Quill.

#### FLORIDA

1950 Graduate of Univ. of Ga., with AB in Journalism, desires position in reporting or circulation on eastern trade publication or newspaper. Married, 25, will furnish references. Box 350, The Quill.

#### ILLINOIS

Journalism graduate desires position in public relations department of large company or as editor of company publication. Have experience in radio, promotional and educational writing, trade magazine editing and public relations. Technical writing a specialty. Have year of graduate study in sociology in European university. Draft exempt. Will accept position in smaller city. Box 366, The Quill.

Married man, 32. More than a year's sound experience writing for industry. Desires change to public relations job that involves writing. B.S., M.S. degrees in Journalism. Salary desired: \$425 month. Box 347, The Quill.

Editor, writer, reporter with 2½ years experience on trade publication seeks new opportunity. Draft exempt veteran, 28; M.S. in Journalism; knowledge of photo editing, layout, production. Complete resumé on request. Box 335, The Quill.

Seek Chicago position in publicity, trade paper, or house organ fields. Available immediately. Editor, community newspaper, 22 years old. 4-F. Journalism B.S., Illinois, June, '50. Box 333, The Quill.

With six years radio news experience, I can put your regional radio station on the news map. My background includes newspaper work and journalistic training at the University of Illinois. Box 335, The Quill.

Honors graduate with two years experience wants big city job, newspaper or public relations. Handle camera. Fast, efficient idea man. Age 23, 3-A in draft. Box 337, The Quill.

You must buy talent. I must sell mine. Master's in Journalism, Medill, '51. Experience on Chicago guide magazine. Collegiate training for reporter, radio news writer, magazine editorial. Let's bargain. Box 324, The Quill.

24 years old, married, B.S. in Journ., daily newspaper, trade publication, radio news writing experience. Would like editorial position in Mid-West or East. Box 310, The Quill.

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**MANAGING EDITOR** small daily seeks editorial job medium daily or industrial house organ. A.B., SDX, 29, married, World War II veteran. Will go anywhere for challenging job with promising future. Box 305, The Quill.

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Young, draft exempt, ambitious editor of weekly desires work with magazine, preferably in east. Creative talents, but realistic. Box 365, The Quill.

Married vet, 26, 2½ years in editorial department of small daily, seeks position on house organ or metropolitan daily; fast on copy desk, knack for feature writing. Box 329, The Quill.

**EDITOR-PHOTOGRAPHER** with 19 years experience in daily and weekly newspaper field, state and national honors, seeks advancement. Consider only outstanding weekly. Box 349, The Quill.

**IMAGINATION, originality, initiative.** Radio writer, 3 years midwest 5 kw. Write, direct, produce, announce, act. BS, technical Journalism. Specialize in children's programs. Let me show you my scripts; they're different. Box 348, The Quill.

#### KANSAS

Public relations work for ambitious 1947 Missouri University journalism graduate. Three years varied experience Kansas daily. Married, 27, no children. Sober, reliable, neat dresser with public speaking and magazine experience. Box 216, The Quill.

## The Book Beat

By DICK FITZPATRICK

**"W**HEREVER men meet for peaceful purposes or in war, *Times* representatives stand by as observers, in greater numbers now than at any other time in the newspaper's century of public service."

Thus, the *New York Times'* Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter, Meyer Berger, establishes the flavor of his book—*"The Story of the New York Times: 1851-1951"* (Simon and Schuster, New York, \$5.00).

Many incidents of journalistic history created by the *Times* in recent years are told in detail. For instance, the two-page description of how the *Times* handled the announcement of Gen. MacArthur's recall is an excellent article on fast work in the newspaper business.

The story of the *Times'* exclusive story on what went on at the Wake Island Conference between MacArthur and Truman is told. Arthur Krock's exclusive interview with Truman is also recounted. This brings up the story of Krock's interview with Roosevelt after which FDR actually okayed the headline which the *Times* ran. These are just a couple of examples of background given on important stories.

In commenting on the Wake Island scoop, Berger says: "This important news break on an internationally vital issue proved again that where the discomforted saw mystery and intrigue behind a newspaper beat, there was only clear thinking and swift action. In most cases the answer was as simple as that."

This 589-page well-indexed book contains twenty-one folded reproductions of famous front pages of the *New York Times*. These range from what it looked like when it was a day old to the May 5, 1951 edition covering the MacArthur hearings.

In addition to this book, Simon and Schuster is publishing reproductions of a 100 first pages of the *Times* bound together with a few pages of comment in a \$1.00 edition.

These two books, telling the history of America's best known newspaper, are valuable editions to every journalism library.

Even if one is not particularly interested in journalism history, many things can be learned about journalism by reading Berger's book. It is a fascinating story and could be

read with profit by all newsmen.

**T**HE centennial of another famous journalistic organization is commemorated with the publication of *"Reuters: The Story of a Century of News-Gathering"* (Crown Publishers, Inc., New York, \$4.00). The book is written by Graham Storey, a fellow at Cambridge University and is the authorized history of the British news agency.

In the foreword of the book, Lord Layton, a member of *Reuters'* board, says that three clear principles have emerged out of the operations of *Reuters* in the later years. He says, "The greatest safeguard against distortion is free access to the news, and competition not only between newspapers, but between the agencies themselves."

Next, he believes, "There should be no government subsidies," and "The most suitable form of control is that news agencies should be owned cooperatively and controlled by the press itself."

Since *Reuters* was always so prominent in the international field, this book furnishes much interesting historical data on the development of international news transmission. The recognition that a news agency can often become the tool of propaganda is clearly indicated in Lord Layton's foreword. He expresses the belief that during World War II *Reuters* was not in this position.

The book contains a very interesting, strongly worded discussion of the *Reuters* side of the famous MacMahon memorandum on international information issued by the State Department in 1945. The *Reuters'* side of the story is well and convincingly told.

This 274-page indexed book is another important contribution to the literature of journalism history. For both the student and the expert, this book will supplement "AP: The Story of News" which tells of the development of that organization.

It not only tells the story of *Reuters'* from carrier-pigeon to wireless, but has much of interest to international communications. Reading this book should also help one better to understand the development of American news agencies.

**T**HE rich and interesting material that is available in the history of journalism in each of the states is beautifully illustrated in *"Georgia*

*Journalism: 1763-1950"* (University of Georgia Press, Athens, Ga., \$6.00) by Lewis T. Griffith and John E. Talmadge. Both are professors of journalism at Georgia. The book includes a good foreword by Dean John Drewry of Georgia's School of Journalism.

This 413-page book is really three books. The first 162 pages give the history of Georgia newspapers through 1950. Part two tells the story of the Georgia Press Association. The third part gives an annotated listing of Georgia newspapers that existed in 1950. This includes when they were founded and basic facts about each.

This book is a valuable edition to the literature of journalism, particularly Southern journalism. Previous important contributions in this area were the study of Henry W. Grady by Professor Nixon of Emory and the two books on the Southern country editor by Professor Clark of Kentucky.

"Georgia Journalism: 1763-1950" might well serve as a model for getting the history of any state's journalism published, particularly since the State Press Association can be expected to cooperate, as did the Georgia Press Association in the case of this book.

**T**HE changes in the journalism field in the last decade led Frank Luther Mott to believe that a new edition of his noted history of journalism was necessary. Thus, the publication of *"American Journalism: A History of Newspapers in the United States Through 260 Years: 1690 to 1950"* (The MacMillan Company, New York, \$5.00) brings Dr. Mott's history, published ten years ago, up to date.

While the author corrected minor errors and added a few bibliographical notes throughout, the main addition to the book is a 62-page section on journalism in the 1940's. This includes chapters on coverage of the second World War, government and press, major newspaper changes, management problems, and the news and its status.

This 835-page, well-written revision of a standard text should be in every newsman's library. It helps to give one that very valuable sense of continuity, which makes experience more meaningful.

For persons who need a quick view of American journalism, Dr. Mott's very excellent article under "Newspapers" in the 1951 Edition of *Encyclopedia Britannica* is recommended. It is concise and comprehensive, and if the information is needed in a hurry, no better way to get it than this article is known.

# From Quill Readers

Editor, *The Quill*:

I was very much interested in Sigma Delta Chi's protest to the publishers of Webster's dictionary over its definition of *journalistic*.

I have been having a squabble with them for years, trying to get them to adopt a proper definition of papaya, one of the most important tropical fruits which is now grown extensively in the southern part of the United States, Cuba, Central America, etc.

In my opinion, the dictionary people are lazy, content to coast along. I should like to see Sigma Delta Chi or some other agency bring the broader questions out into the open. I think the public would be dumbfounded over the large number of omissions, inaccuracies and plain errors contained in our dictionaries.

Surfside, Florida. J. H. Newmark

Editor, *The Quill*:

I would like to add my praise to the others commenting upon the improvement in Sigma Delta Chi's magazine. The critical articles reflect some good thinking among journalists. Also the improvement is the fraternity supplement which carries news about the doings of Sigma Delta Chis. It is an interesting addition to a readable magazine. Keep up the good work.

Marvin L. Rowlands Jr.  
Leavenworth, Kan.

Editor, *The Quill*:

Allow me to throw a bouquet to the editors of *THE QUILL*. In my work I read every prominent magazine published and there is still none that I look forward to with the interest I do *THE QUILL*. It is well written, informative and stimulating. I only regret that the general public misses this magazine.

Curtiss M. Anderson  
Des Moines, Iowa

Editor, *The Quill*:

The startling improvement in the quality and usefulness of *THE QUILL* since around the first of last year made a deep impression on me. Congratulations.

Van Nuys, Calif. Howard M. Smith

*THE QUILL* for January, 1952



Advertisement

## From where I sit by Joe Marsh

### Experienced Hand Wanted

*Cappy Miller's back from visiting relatives and tells about a big snow storm that knocked out the electric power for miles around.*

Naturally, the local power company was doing everything possible to restore service but a good many folks kept calling in and one woman gave them a new twist.

"I don't mind not having lights," she grumbled, "but I've got 20 cows in my barn and they all have to be milked by machine. Nobody around here knows how to milk a cow by hand any more."

From where I sit, it's only too easy to forget how to do something—even as simple as milking a cow—if we don't keep at it. And that goes for practicing tolerance, too. Like forgetting our neighbor has a right to decide for himself whether or not to enjoy a temperate glass of beer. If we don't keep the other fellow's point of view in mind we're all liable to get "snowed under" by intolerance.

*Joe Marsh*

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